

Lori Stegmann
Multnomah County Commissioner
Representing East County, District 4



February 26, 2019

Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
Senator James Manning, Jr. (Co-Chair)
Representative David Gombert (Co-Chair)
Senator Jeff Golden
Senator Bill Hansell
Representative Paul Evans
Representative Gary Leif
Representative Rachel Prusak
Representative Duane Stark

900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: 2019-2021 Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF)

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development,

As Multnomah County Commissioner of District 4 (East County), I would like to express Multnomah County's enthusiastic support for the Governor's Regional Solutions (RS) Program and one of its important tools, the Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) within Business Oregon's budget.

I serve on the Metro RS' Advisory Committee and have found a true benefit in the role of the RS program due to the program's ability to identify priorities, solve problems, and seize opportunities to get specific projects completed. The Metro RS team is working to advance one of our county's priority projects, the redevelopment of Vance Properties, which is county owned land totaling approximately 90 acres and is located within the city of Gresham in the Rockwood and Centennial neighborhoods. The Metro RS team is engaged in our project and will help to inform an innovative master plan for Vance properties that will support current and future county programs, address existing environmental issues and incorporate an environmental mitigation strategy for future uses. The Metro RS team has already connected us to state resources including brownfield redevelopment funds.

In addition to Metro RS helping with Vance Properties, the RIF has had and will continue to have a positive impact on priority projects that Multnomah County has been involved in or supported, including the following:

Rockwood Rising Maker Space: Rockwood Rising is a Gresham Redevelopment Commission urban renewal project that will include a maker space and house construction and manufacturing apprenticeship programs within the new town center. The project was recently selected to be awarded \$300,000 in RIF when lottery bonds are sold in spring 2019. Specifically, RIF funding will support the construction of the maker space. The project site is located in the heart of the Rockwood neighborhood,

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in one of the lowest income zip codes in the Portland metro area. Rockwood has the highest concentration of immigrants of any town center in the Portland metro area; its residents are young, diverse, and live in one of the most under resourced areas in Oregon. The maker space will provide local residents access to machinery, tools and workshops in high demand trades that will result in higher incomes for local families. Having grown up in the Rockwood neighborhood in west Gresham and serving the district today, I value the significant role this project will play in improving the lives of residents in east Multnomah County.

Levee Ready Columbia: The Levee Ready Columbia partnership was also recently selected to be awarded \$167,314 in RIF when lottery bonds are sold in spring 2019. The RIF funding will leverage other monies to support geotechnical and engineering evaluation of the critical 27 mile levee system spanning from the confluence of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers, running from North Portland to the Sandy River and large parts of Sauvie Island. It will help ensure that the levee system and other flood management infrastructure remain accredited by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and remain in good standing in the US Army Corps of Engineers' (the Corps) Rehabilitation and Inspection Program (RIP), while also reducing the risk of flooding for the Portland International Airport, tens of thousands of jobs and residences, thousands of acres of local farmland, and hundreds of acres of parks and natural areas in Multnomah County.

As demonstrated, the RIF successfully supports regionally significant community and economic development priority projects. While RIF is only one tool that RS uses to help communities and businesses throughout the state, it is an important one because it helps projects get to "Yes." We strongly recommend your support of the RIF and we look forward to our continued partnership with RS. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Stegmann". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Commissioner Lori Stegmann, Multnomah County District 4