



Office of Mayor Ted Wheeler
City of Portland

March 5, 2019

Senator Manning and Representative Gomberg, Co-Chairs
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St., NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Sunset Highway Corridor Study
Multi-Modal Solutions to Reduce GHG

Dear Senator Manning, Representative Gomberg and Members of the Subcommittee:

The City of Portland supports the Governor's Recommended Budget request of \$1,000,000 to fund the Sunset Highway Corridor Study (SHCS). The SHCS was identified for future corridor refinement planning in the recently updated 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

Sunset Highway (US 26) provides an important inter-regional connection between economic centers of downtown Portland and the high-tech traded sector employment center in the northern Tualatin Valley. Serving commuter traffic and daily commerce needs, it has become unreliable with congestion present for 13.5 hours per weekday and multiple hours on weekends despite being served by multiple light rail routes. Light rail trains operate at or near capacity during peak commute periods. The Sunset Transit Center has been full since opening day in 1998, forcing many potential transit commuters to commute by car. The resulting congestion on US 26 has resulted in thousands of commuters and freight taking substandard roads such as Cornell, Germantown, Cornelius Pass and Burnside over the West Hills, as well as using the St. Johns Bridge as a freight bypass of Portland's freeway system, cutting through northwest Portland neighborhoods for multiple hours each weekday.

The resulting adverse environmental impacts, neighborhood impacts, and constraints on economic growth have become an issue of statewide concern. A study of potential multi-modal solutions to improve mobility and reduce long-term greenhouse gas emissions for the corridor is necessary. Potential solutions the SHCS should evaluate, as identified in the RTP, include expanded and prioritized transit service, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) technologies, operational and freight-related improvements, and congestion pricing. The City of Portland appreciates Governor Brown's inclusion of the SHCS in her recommended budget and supports funding the study.

Sincerely,

Ted Wheeler
Mayor, City of Portland