



March 5, 2019

Senators Johnson and Steiner Hayward and Representative Rayfield
Co-Chairs, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE, S-209, S-213 and H-275
Salem, OR 97301

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

Dear Senators Johnson and Steiner Hayward and Representative Rayfield:

The Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce echoes the support provided by Washington County and the City of Hillsboro of the Governor's Recommended Budget request of \$1,000,000 to fund the Sunset Highway Corridor Study (SHCS). The additional financial support committed by Washington County and the City of Hillsboro, we believe, demonstrates the urgent need of this critical study. The Regional Transportation Plan identifies the need for improvements in the Sunset Highway Corridor and the need for a corridor study.

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, and 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 a significant issue of statewide concern and a study of potential multi-modal solutions to improve mobility for the corridor are immediately necessary. The Hillsboro Chamber appreciates Governor Brown's decision to include the investment in the SHCS in her recommended budget and will provide whatever support may be required to encourage the Legislature to appropriate funding requested toward this important study.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Deanna Palm'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Deanna' and last name 'Palm' clearly legible.

Deanna Palm
President