

April 21, 2021

Senator Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair

Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair

Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair

Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Ways and Means, 900 State Street NE, Room H-178, Salem OR 97301

Dear Chairs Johnson, Hayward, and Rayfield, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

On behalf of the City of Sandy, thank you for the opportunity to share how state funding can be used to support communities like Sandy as we continue to recover from the economic impacts of COVID-19. As a small growing community, the pandemic has only increased the funding challenges we face as we attempt to address our multiple outstanding infrastructure and community investment needs.

Our highest priority and the most significant opportunity to leverage state funding in Sandy would be to invest in our ongoing **Wastewater System Improvement Project**. This multi-year initiative, the largest in the City's history, represents our steadfast dedication to protecting our vital local watersheds, while building sustainable infrastructure for the future residents of our area. The improvement project, which carries an overall cost estimate of over \$80 million, represents a considerable financial commitment for our community. We are grateful to the Legislature for securing \$500,000 earlier this biennium to help us study green alternatives to a new discharge site, including constructing wetlands at the site of the former Roslyn Lake. This project is shovel-ready with work on our sewer collection system and existing treatment plant underway. State and federal funds could be applied immediately to the project, help us continue to develop innovative and environmentally responsible solutions, and ease the impact that dramatic utility bill increases have had on our ratepayers, especially those who have struggled during the pandemic.

Additional funding priorities our City Council has identified to assist our community include:

- **Extension of 362<sup>nd</sup> and Bell Streets** is a \$8.6 million shovel ready key transportation connection that will encourage development of long-vacant commercial land, create living wage jobs in our rural area, help alleviate congestion on Highway 26, and provide access for first responder vehicles and emergency egress for residents.
- **Investments in our Drinking Water Treatment and Supply System** would help develop a new plant to treat Bull Run water to comply with federal requirements and invest in essential system redundancy to ensure the availability of drinking water in case of emergencies. The planning and engineering work is estimated at \$2 million.
- **Construction of a New Multi-Generational Community Center**, to create a safe and inclusive community gathering space with programming for vulnerable populations such as seniors and at-risk youth. The city could leverage existing urban renewal funds to complete this \$30 million project.

- **City Facility Safety and Resiliency Investments**, to address long-standing safety, security, and emergency preparedness shortcomings in our public buildings. This includes our municipal broadband utility and transit system facilities, both of which are critical for community emergency response. The city has identified at least \$12 million that could go towards these critical facility investments.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our priorities and for considering our requests. We are fortunate to have such fantastic partners in Salem working every day to ensure that Sandy, and other communities like ours, remain wonderful places to live.

Sincerely,

Mayor Stan Pulliam  
Council President Jeremy Pietzold  
Councilor Laurie Smallwood  
Councilor Carl Exner  
Councilor Kathleen Walker  
Councilor Rich Sheldon  
Councilor Don Hokanson

