

City of Sandy
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Public Hearing
Draft Testimony (2 minute version)

On behalf of the City of Sandy, thank you very much for this opportunity to discuss the multiple ways state funding can be used to support our community as we continue to recover from the economic impacts of COVID-19.

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, carries a cost estimate of \$80 million, which is a considerable financial commitment for our community. State and federal funds at this point could be applied immediately to this shovel-ready project, help us protect our vital local watersheds, build sustainable infrastructure for the future residents of our area, 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 362nd 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.