



April 21, 2021

Joint Ways and Means Committee  
Oregon State Legislature

Greetings,

My name is Brian Latta. I am the city manager of the City of Dallas. I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to discuss urgent infrastructure needs for the City of Dallas relative to funding that has been made available to the State of Oregon through the Federal American Rescue Plan Act. I ask the Committee members to apply the federal funding the State receives to financially support municipal infrastructure projects.

The Federal Government used to provide generous funding for municipal infrastructure projects. Those funds enabled cities to support their communities with key facilities and services like water and wastewater treatment plants that provided reliability and supported growth. Those funds dried up years ago. As a result, most cities have struggled to address the needs of their aging infrastructure, to provide upgrades that are necessary to support job growth, and to employ best practices in environmental processes.

The Federal American Rescue Plan provides an opportunity to begin to address the backlog of municipal infrastructure projects. For the City of Dallas, two projects are urgently needed.

Recent modeling shows that in just a few years the City will be unable to meet the general potable water needs of the community during drought conditions. Additionally, the limited water supply has effectively capped the City's ability to support any significant industrial growth. As the population continues to expand the supply of jobs is not expanding with it.

The City's Water Supply Expansion Project will address these issues by creating a new reservoir within the City's current watershed. In addition to increasing water storage capacity to serve future industry and living wage jobs, the project will benefit fish habitat by allowing higher stream flows in Rickreall Creek during summer months. The project

will also create numerous construction jobs. We anticipate the project will cost \$35 million.

The second project is the city's Recycled Water Project that will give the City the ability to process wastewater and produce up to 1.1 million gallons/day of Class A reclaimed water for industrial and potential irrigation reuse. One of the key benefits of this project will be the ability to offset municipal water demands, thereby maintaining instream water flows, and extending the life of the City's water supply system. By making recycled water available for industrial use, this project will allow for new industrial development and new living wage jobs in the City of Dallas. The project will also create several construction jobs. Additionally, the proposed Recycled Water Project includes cooling towers to reduce the temperature of effluent discharged to Rickreall Creek during the May through October time frame when there is lower water levels. Cooler water will provide benefits to the fish in Rickreall Creek. This project is anticipated to cost \$8.7 million, and is construction ready.

Given the benefits these projects offer in terms of new jobs, promoting economic expansion and providing environmental benefits, the City is seeking support from the State of Oregon by way of American Rescue Plan Act funds. Your consideration of direct allocations or grants to support these projects would be greatly appreciated and would result in important advances for our community.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Latta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Brian Latta  
City Manager  
City of Dallas