

On behalf of the Delphian School, I am writing to share our strong and continuing support for the Newberg-Dundee Bypass. We ask you in the strongest of terms to explore all possible ways you can speed up the completion of this vital project.

In particular, Phase 2 of the Bypass construction is now shovel ready. SB 5534 provides \$32 million in state lottery bond funding that will

- 1) enable ODOT to move to construction on Phase II of the bypass, and
- 2) provide a critical state match that can leverage federal dollars to complete construction.

The Delphian School has been strong supporters of the Newberg-Dundee Bypass for many years for many reasons. By way of background, the Delphian School is an international day and boarding (K-12) near Sheridan that opened in 1976. We are involved in our local communities and we are all impacted in many ways by the traffic problems the Bypass is designed to alleviate.

I'm a native Oregonian and I've been amazed to see that the Bypass started with an idea and that now we can drive on part of it! While it is great that we can drive on 4 miles of the bypass, we need all 11 miles built. We urge you to do all you can to keep the project moving to completion as rapidly as possible.

Generally, the bypass will serve to improve the speed and safety of transportation all the way from Portland to the Oregon coast. Without the bypass, goods can't be transported efficiently and companies are reluctant to start, grow or stay in the area. This inhibits tourism, and affects safety as well. The Delphian School is affected generally, but as an international boarding school our families need efficient transport when they visit. We also know that with safe and efficient transport, our communities will thrive and serve our students and families better with increased goods and services, including medical services.

The first phase of the Bypass brought both improvements and problems. We have increased congestion south of Dundee and at the east end of the bypass. This is only going to get worse until the full bypass is completed. It is sad that travelers choosing to go south (below Newberg) are at risk of serious injury or death because that path leads to McKay Road where there have been a number of fatalities since that section of the Bypass was completed.

The only way to remedy this is to rapidly finish the complete bypass. This needs to happen rapidly to save lives, improve commerce and improve our quality of life; the longer it takes the more it will cost.

We understand the Bypass project is close to being eligible for major federal funding. We don't want to miss the federal funding opportunity to leverage the sizable investments already made by the State and local communities and to obtain the funds necessary to finish the project.

You have been entrusted by both the Legislature and Governor to lead the way for the most critical projects in this state. The Newberg-Dundee Bypass is a critical project; it is absolutely vital to communities stretching from the Metro area all the way to the Central Coast. We encourage you to make this project a priority and work to make this full Bypass solution a reality.

Thanks to investments made by the Legislature and the Oregon Transportation Commission over the past two years, Phase 2 is now shovel ready. With SB 5534's \$32 million in state lottery bond funds, ODOT can begin construction of Phase II of the bypass. This will also provide the critical state match so we can maximize available federal dollars and complete construction.