

Co-Chairs Holvey, Girod and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the McMinnville Leadership Council, I want to express our very strong support for the Newberg-Dundee Bypass. We urge you to explore ways to accelerate the completion of this vital project and in particular we support SB 5534. Because Phase 2 of the bypass is shovel ready, this \$32 million in state lottery bond funding will enable ODOT to construct Phase II of the bypass and provide a critical state match that will allow leveraging federal dollars and completing construction.

Formed in 2007, the McMinnville Leadership Council serves as the senior group of community-area leaders from businesses, nonprofits and government entities who communicate, cooperate and coordinate on issues of mutual concern. It was formed under the leadership of the McMinnville Area Chamber of Commerce when I was Board Chair, and I've been chairing the Council since its inception. The topic of the bypass has been a foremost community concern for many years.

While Council members have a range of opinions on a variety of issues, all members agree that the completion of the Newberg-Dundee is vital for our community, our region, and our state.

The Bypass started years ago as an idea to solve major community and regional issues and now part of it is a reality. Four of its eleven miles are built and in use, but the project must be completed for us to reach all of its benefits and resolve major problems.

The current mix of the bypass and existing roads provides the critical link between Portland, our community and coastal communities. It supports the growth of regional manufacturing, allows the flow of goods to and from local markets, and provides tourism access, and improved access for medical and emergency services,

The first phase of the Bypass brought improvements but new congestion as well. These will only get worse until the full Bypass is completed. The traffic now backs up near Dundee taking away the savings of time on the Bypass itself. The awkward end in Newberg would be bad enough, but with folks choosing to divert onto McKay Road, put themselves and others at risk of serious injury or death. A few years ago KATU reported a dozen fatalities on McKay Road in one year, and said locals call it "death road".

These issues will only be resolved and the full benefits achieved by the completion of the entire regional Bypass (from Rex Hill to Dayton). It is important to act quickly because the work on the Bypass will only grow more expensive over time. We understand that the Bypass is close to eligibility for major federal funding, and that as little as \$32 million could get the project shovel-ready for construction.

We don't want to miss this federal funding opportunity. It would leverage the major investments already made by the State and local communities and obtain the funds necessary to finish the project. The Legislature and Governor have entrusted you to lead the way for the most critical projects in this state. The Newberg-Dundee Bypass is absolutely vital to the many communities stretching from the Metro area all the way to the Central Coast. We encourage you to make this project a priority and support SB 5534 to make this full Bypass solution a reality.

Please support SB 5534. Phase 2 of the bypass is now shovel ready. SB 5534's provision of \$32 million in state lottery bond funding will enable ODOT to construct Phase II of the bypass and provide a critical state match to leverage federal dollars to complete construction.

Sincerely,

Mark Siegel, Chair
McMinnville Leadership Council