

February 11, 2022

Co-Chair Girod
Co-Chair Holvey
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Capital Construction
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey:

The City of Sandy is requesting state funding for two infrastructure projects critical to the long-term future of our community and region. Below is a summary of the reasons these projects constitute an effective investment of State funds. We sincerely thank you for your consideration of our request.

BELL STREET / 362ND AVENUE EXTENSION PROJECT

Funding Requested: \$5 million (42% of total project cost)

This project will extend Bell Street west from its current terminus and connect to 362nd extended approximately 1,200 feet north from the Highway 26 intersection. The roadway section will consist of two 11-foot wide travel lanes, two 6-foot wide bike lanes, an 8 to 12 foot wide landscaped center median and a 6-foot wide sidewalk on one side separated from the street by a five-foot wide tree planter. Associated stormwater management, environmental mitigation, illumination, signing and striping improvements will also take place.

The Bell Street / 362nd Avenue extension will generate long-lasting benefits for our community and region for the following reasons:

Resolving Bottlenecks / Promoting Resiliency

Highway 26 is an essential transportation corridor in the region, and a critical route for emergency vehicles, commercial activity, and commuters. This road extension will provide relief to a chronic traffic bottleneck in our area by allowing traffic originating in the northwest quadrant of the city to reach Highway 26 and the commercial areas at the west edge of Sandy without needing to negotiate the often-congested Bluff Road / Highway 26 intersection. The project is a key element of the City's Transportation System Plan and will reduce local trips (those with an origin and destination in Sandy) on Highway 26 by providing an alternative parallel route and will also create a more efficient evacuation route for residents of the northwest quadrant of the city.

Job Creation

Extensive economic development opportunities will be created by connecting 362nd Avenue and Bell Street. The immediate area (126 acres) to be served by the project is zoned C2, (General Commercial, 106 acres) and R2 (Medium Density Residential, 20 acres), and the immediate access to a major state highway at a signalized intersection and transit infrastructure will facilitate new retail / commercial development on long-vacant land that will stimulate the local economy and create numerous new jobs in this rural community.

Needed Housing

Sandy is one of the fastest growing cities in Oregon, having seen a 32% increase in population in just the past 10 years. This road extension will facilitate the development of a variety of new housing units with easy access to transit, Highway 26, and retail.

Access to Schools

This new connection will also provide an additional route to access Cedar Ridge Middle School and Sandy High School, particularly for school buses, parents and students from Boring and the west end of Sandy to avoid the congested Bluff Road / Highway 26 intersection. The high school in particular is currently located at the end of a dead-end street; a major safety concern in the event emergency vehicles need to access the school.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING

Funding Requested: \$1 million (5% of total project cost)

This project will fund preliminary engineering, alternatives analysis, environmental permitting, geotechnical review and pilot studies for a new 3.0 MGD membrane filter water treatment plant to treat water from the Bull Run watershed.

This project is critical to the future of our city for several reasons:

Resilience / Emergency Preparedness

Bull Run water represents essential redundancy in a separate watershed that can be leveraged in case of emergencies and natural disasters, including wildfires and earthquakes. The new filtration plant will ensure the City can continue to access this vital water supply for the safety of our community.

Capacity for Growth

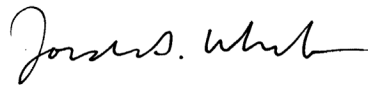
Sandy is one of the fastest growing cities in Oregon, having seen a 32% increase in population in just the past 10 years. The City's other water sources are inadequate to meet the needs of our growing community; completing this project will ensure sufficient supply to support needed housing for future residents.

Financial Sustainability

The recent Federal requirements prompting the City of Portland to reconfigure its water system to treat cryptosporidium and the resulting increases in Portland's wholesale water rates make the option of continuing to purchase treated water from Portland financially untenable. The City Council has determined that the most financially sustainable path forward for Sandy is to construct a treatment plant that is right-sized for Sandy, thus minimizing the financial burden on local ratepayers over the long term.

Thank you again for considering our request, and for your ongoing service to our state. We appreciate your leadership during this challenging time.

Sincerely,



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