



Feb 11, 2022

Re: City Parking Solutions Project

Dear Fellow Oregonians,

One of the unique challenges in the City of Hood River is lack of vehicle parking for tourists. Growing up, our quaint town didn't have such issues because it was predominantly an agricultural and timber community. Over the years, tourism has grown so much that many locals try to avoid downtown Hood River because of all the congestion. At times, even the freeway gets backed up due to cars trying to exit. Too many vehicles clog the streets trying to find a place to park.

City Parking Solutions is seeking to address this problematic issue with the most economical and quickest proposal for implementation. While another alternative is exploring the possibility of constructing a large multi-level parking garage where a farmer's market currently gathers in a small existing parking lot, this project would make 300 parking spaces available much quicker at the Terminal Ice & Cold Storage lot in Pine Grove – less than 5 miles from downtown. Therefore, passengers who visit Mt. Hood Railroad could park at this alternative location to board the train instead of parking downtown. As a result, 300 parking spaces downtown by the train station could be made available to the public instead of reserved exclusively for Mt. Hood Railroad.

There is a synergistic possibility to reduce congestion while enhancing tourism in Hood River at the same time. Consequently, this is the type of solution the citizens of Hood River can celebrate. Plus, if the Mt. Hood Railroad becomes more integrated with the popular Fruit Loop, it should generate even more excitement for the region.

Rather than attempting to build new parking structures, this solution would make better use of existing parking capacity in Hood River County. I ask you to join me in supporting this more affordable option for alleviating congestion in one of Oregon's popular tourist destinations.

Sincerely,

L. Scott Webster, Owner

The Fruit Company

scott@thefruitcompany.com