

County Commissioners  
Kevin Cameron, Chair  
Danielle Bethell  
Colm Willis



Chief Administrative  
Officer  
Jan Fritz

## MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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February 16, 2024

Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair  
Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chair  
Members of the Committee

**Subject: Marion County Supports Funding for HOPE Plaza**

Dear Members of Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction:

The Marion County Board of Commissioners writes to express our wholehearted support for the Center for Hope and Safety's request for funding to complete HOPE Plaza. This transformative project represents a crucial step forward in addressing the urgent need for safe and supportive housing for survivors of violence in our community.

HOPE Plaza embodies a comprehensive approach to addressing the barriers faced by survivors, offering not only housing but also opportunities for empowerment, community partnerships, and employment. By revitalizing the old Greyhound Bus Station site in Salem, the Plaza will not only provide essential housing but also contribute to the economic vitality of downtown Salem.

The first-floor businesses at HOPE Plaza will serve as more than just retail spaces—they will offer job training opportunities and vital services for survivors, fostering economic independence and self-sufficiency. Additionally, the Plaza will provide 20 units of affordable housing, ensuring that survivors have access to stable and secure living arrangements as they rebuild their lives.

We commend the Center for Hope and Safety for their tireless efforts in bringing this vision to fruition. Their dedication to serving victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking is truly commendable, and HOPE Plaza is a testament to their commitment to supporting those in need.

We urge the Oregon Legislature to provide the necessary funding to help complete HOPE Plaza and ensure that survivors in our community have access to the resources and support they need to thrive.

Thank you for considering our support for this important project.

Sincerely,

Three handwritten signatures in blue ink are shown above horizontal lines. From left to right, they correspond to Kevin Cameron, Danielle Bethell, and Colm Willis.

Kevin Cameron  
Chair

Danielle Bethell  
Commissioner

Colm Willis  
Commissioner