



City of McMinnville

Office of Mayor

February 16, 2024

Remy Drabkin

Joint Committee on Ways and Means on Capital Construction
Legislative Fiscal Office
900 Court Street, NE, Room H-178
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support of McMinnville's Third Street Improvement Project Request for \$4M

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey, and Committee Members,

I am asking for your support of McMinnville's Third Street Improvement Project! We're ready to fix the problems and shape the heart of McMinnville for generations. The project is approximately \$11,500,000. **The City has committed \$2.9MM (City Urban Renewal) and \$600,000 (City ARPA).** *Of the remaining \$8,000,000, we respectfully request a \$4,000,000 direct allocation.*

Third Street is McMinnville's beating heart, our community living room. It hosts festivals and parades, restaurants, clothing stores, groceries, hotels, bakeries, salons, a pharmacy, music shops. It's **tree** lined (although many are diseased or missing), pretty, in a **historic district**. Third Street is two blocks from the County Courthouse and two blocks from City Hall – it's a busy **business district**. However, the condition of the **infrastructure** is disrepair, a 2022 survey reported McMinnvillians with **mobility challenges**, including seniors, no longer visit Third Street due to the condition of the **sidewalks** and fear for their safety. McMinnville is also the heart of Oregon Wine Country, a major attraction bringing **tourism dollars** into and from around the State to walk up and down this bucolic street. It is magical. As our population increases, and we protect and preserve surrounding farmland, we need **higher density city center housing**. The **water and sewer** infrastructure on Third Street must be replaced if we are to provide more housing options.

The City of McMinnville identified the need for this project in 2000, almost 25 years ago! It's time to get this work done. The City has done planning, community discussion and design. We created an urban renewal district to help fund the project. We have Federal partner dollars coming from Congress. Our businesses, our citizens, our visitors – need this work done, time is up! Thank you for supporting the Third Street Improvement Project!

Sincerely,

Remy Drabkin

Mayor, City of McMinnville

cc: Representative Lucetta Elmer
Senator Brian Boquist