



Board of Commissioners

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February 11, 2025

Joint Committee on Transportation
900 Court St. NE.
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Benton County Urges Support for Widening US Highway 20, Senate Bill 564

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain;
Co-Vice Chairs Starr and Boshart-Davis;
Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation:

U.S. Highway 20/34 from its intersection with 15th Street in Corvallis, Oregon and the Philomath, Oregon City Limits is a two-lane undivided highway.

The Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) is over 22,000 vehicles a day, with approximately 7.8% of those vehicles being freight trucks. Highway 20/34 is a highly travelled route to the Oregon coast that sees traffic spikes in the summer months during prime tourist season. A series of traffic signals on the route, which are not interconnected, contribute to congestion and the inefficient start-stop movement of freight. Due to this congestion, Benton County roads see additional wear as traffic is diverted when the public attempts to find the path of least resistance to their destination.

The widening of US Highway 20/34 is listed in the Benton County Transportation System Plan as a congestion and safety improvement project. It is an important project to provide relief to the County system and increase efficiency of the highway. A strategic plan of additional lanes and interconnected signals would also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Benton County Board of Commissioners urges your support to pass SB 564 to widen the part of US Highway 20 between Highway 99 and the City of Philomath.

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Thank you for your consideration for this request to support SB 564.

Sincerely,

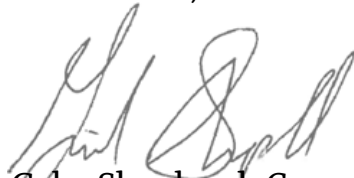
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Pat Malone, Vice Chair



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