



May 8, 2025

Oregon Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee

Oregon State Legislature

900 Court Street NE

Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee,

On behalf of the City of Weston, I respectfully submit this letter in support of a crucial capital construction funding request for the replacement of bridge number 0469A. According to our last Transportation Growth Management (TGM) report from 2015, this bridge is in urgent need of replacement. Due to federal changes and our city's budget constraints, we are seeking financial assistance for this \$3.5 million project, as our population is under 700. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has classified this bridge as seriously deficient, making its replacement vital for the safety and health of our residents and visitors.

Weston serves as a satellite hub in the surrounding area and is part of a transportation corridor located just a mile off Highway 11. This bridge intersects at the north entrance to town with Highway 204 and connects to Highway 337 via Bannister Road.

The main bridge, situated near the north entrance of town on Water Street, is part of the School Bus Corridor. We are seeking funding to replace this aging and deteriorating infrastructure. This bridge is a critical route for vehicles entering and leaving town, as well as for school buses transporting students to Weston Middle School. Furthermore, it connects school-age children in Weston with our local elementary and high schools in Athena. Upgrading the bridge is essential to ensure student safety and provide reliable transportation.

If this bridge is not replaced soon and continues to deteriorate, it may result in further weight restrictions. Such restrictions would delay emergency medical and fire services to the North End of town, directly impacting two food processing plants and all homes on the north side. Emergency responders would then need to take a longer route via Bannister

Road, potentially increasing response times by at least 15 minutes for those areas. This would further worsen response times for emergency services outside of town to the north along Highway 204 if this bridge were to become unsafe.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We appreciate your support in securing the necessary funding to improve our vital infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Dowd". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and the last name "Dowd" clearly legible.

Mike Dowd

Mayor, Weston OR

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