

May 8th, 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 much-needed Capital Construction funding request for crucial bridge infrastructure replacement. The bridge number is 0469A and is listed in our last TGM of 2015 as needing replacement. Due to federal changes and our city's budget, with our population under 700, we urgently need financial assistance for this 3.5-million-dollar bridge replacement. ODOT has listed this bridge as seriously deficient. This replacement is vital for the health and safety of our residents and visitors to our community. This project addresses critical needs in our transportation network.

We are a satellite hub in the surrounding area and part of the transportation corridor connecting us at a mile off Highway 11. It intersects at the north entrance to town with 204, and as a connection to Highway 337 off Bannister Road.

The main bridge, located near the north entrance of town on Water Street, is part of the School Bus Corridor. The City is seeking funding to replace this aging and deteriorating bridge. This bridge is a vital route for vehicles entering and leaving town, and for school buses transporting our students to Weston Middle School. Additionally, it connects Weston school-age children with our local elementary and high schools in Athena. Upgrading the bridge is vital for ensuring student safety and providing reliable transportation.

If the bridge is not replaced soon and continues deteriorating, it could incur further weight restrictions. This will delay medical and fire services for the North End of town, directly affecting two food processing plants and all homes on the Northside. Emergency responders would need to take a longer route via Bannister Road, resulting in at least a 15-minute increase in response times for those areas. Response times for emergency services outside of town to the north and along Highway 204 would worsen if this bridge were no longer safe.

**Sincerely,
Duane Thul
Former City Mayor Weston**