



May 8, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez,

As the leaders of the local governments that are served by Tualatin Valley (TV) Highway, we write in support of the request for \$50 million in state bonding for the TV Highway Bus Rapid Transit Project. This project will bring critical infrastructure improvements to support transit service and safety on a state highway in desperate need of investment.

The local governments of Metro, TriMet, Washington County, and the Cities of Beaverton, Hillsboro, Forest Grove, and Cornelius are bringing \$100 million to the table to help fund the TV Highway project, 1/3 of the total cost of \$300 million. We are asking the Oregon Legislature to help us build on the support and momentum at the local level by investing the additional \$50 million in matching dollars required to leverage \$150 million in federal funding.

Oregon Highway 8, known as TV Highway, is a heavily trafficked transportation corridor in Washington County that connects regional and town centers from Beaverton to Forest Grove. Functioning as an urban arterial between these cities, TV Highway is served by the second highest ridership line in the entire TriMet system (Line 57).

Our constituents have been begging us for years for a safer TV Highway, better access to transit, and more dignified transit rider experience. This project would focus on constructing targeted intersection improvements along the state highway between Forest Grove and Beaverton.

The TV Highway Steering Committee, which each of our jurisdictions has seat on, has met since 2022 to develop a community led and supported project that most efficiently uses public investments to deliver meaningful improvements. The project partners have also worked together in consultation with ODOT to right-size the project. Once the project is completed, TV Highway would see significant safety improvements, better travel conditions and reduced delays for all travelers along a major transportation connector in Washington County.

TV Highway is in dire need of investment:

- **Safety:** The TV Highway fatal crash rate is nearly twice the regional average. More than half of fatal crashes between 2017-2021 involved pedestrians
- **Poor Bus Stop Infrastructure and Accessibility:** 54% of stops don't have a shelter, 34% don't have seating, and 41% have no lighting.
- **Slow Bus Travel:** Bus travel today takes about twice as long as driving.
- **High Ridership:** Line 57 has the most daily boardings in Washington County. This bus line also has experienced around a 90% bounce-back rate compared to pre-pandemic ridership.

The TV Highway Bus Rapid Transit Project will result in:

- **Improved bus stations:** Covered bus shelters, lighting, and boarding platforms at 41 station pairs
- **Safer intersections:** Every bus station will be paired with a crossing improvements & four major intersections will be rebuilt entirely for pedestrian and driver safety
- **More frequent service:** TV Highway would be upgraded to 12-minute bus service
- **Increased transit speed and reliability:** 59 signal upgrades to improve efficiency and accommodate transit signal priority
- **Bus upgrades:** 15 new zero-emission vehicles, bus chargers and a bus facility upgrade

Local governments are committed to contributing 67% of the state/local match required for the federal Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program. There is strong partnership and investment at the local level on this project to improve a state highway in dire need of investment – we need the state's help to bring TV Highway across the finish line.

Sincerely,



Sam Desue, Jr.
General Manager
TriMet



Juan Carlos Gonzalez
Councilor
Metro



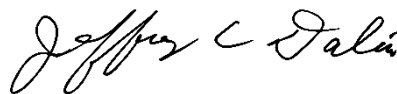
Kathryn Harrington
Chair, Board of Commission
Washington County



Beach Pace
Mayor
City of Hillsboro



Lacey Beaty
Mayor
City of Beaverton



Jeffrey Dalin
Mayor
City of Cornelius

