

May 9, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Subcommittee on Capital Construction

900 Court St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

RE: Amity Railroad Waterline Replacement

Co-chairs Girod and Nosse and Members of the Committee:

The City of Amity is seeking \$500,000 in funding to support the construction of three critical waterlines that cross the railroad tracks, providing essential water service to Amity's commercial center.

Currently, our downtown and commercial area rely on three aging and inadequate waterlines running beneath the railroad. Notably, two of these lines are constructed of Asbestos Cement, and one has a diameter of only 4 inches.

This infrastructure limitation is hindering development within Amity's downtown, which has several vacant lots ready for commercial or residential projects but lacking sufficient access to the city's water system.

The City is actively in the design phase for the replacement of these three waterlines, a project that necessitates boring under the railroad tracks. While Amity is committed to contributing \$1,000,000 to this effort, we currently lack the resources to complete all three railroad crossings simultaneously. Encouragingly, the design and permitting processes for all three crossings are already underway.

Therefore, the City of Amity is requesting \$500,000, representing 32% of the total project cost, to facilitate the construction of these three crucial waterline railroad crossings. This is a shovel-ready project with an anticipated completion date before June 2026 and will eliminate a significant impediment to the development of both housing and commercial properties in downtown Amity.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important request for the City of Amity.

Sincerely,

Sean-Ryan Fitzgerald

Planning Commission Member, City of Amity