



CITY COUNCIL

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May 9, 2025

Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair
Representative Rob Nosse, Co-Chair
Members of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee:

I'm writing on behalf of the City of Salem and Salem City Council in support of Senate Bill 5531, authorizing use of Lottery Bonds to fund capital projects, and House Bill 5006, authorizing use of General Funds for important, ongoing initiatives.

The City of Salem's immediate priorities remain:

- **Funding Support for Capitol District: \$7.25 million.** State-owned properties represent approximately 8% of the area within the City limits and at least \$1.26 billion in assessed valuation (2022). **If the State-owned properties were on the tax rolls, approximately \$7.25 million to support** to offset the impacts of providing public safety and **emergency services** to the Capital District and other state-owned property in the City. Eugene and Corvallis, with university campuses, cater to a different population with different needs and different and dedicated funding source for services. Salem, as home to State hospital and prison facilities, has no other funding support available to providing fire or emergency medical support.
- **Airport Terminal Area Plan: \$750,00.** The Terminal Area Plan is the next immediate step and a critical path to access leveraged federal dollars for terminal expansion capital projects. The City of Salem has received federal funds to: improve passenger occupancy and efficiency at the terminal, including adding one additional gate and seating, doubling the size of the passenger boarding area, expand the baggage claim area and build additional restroom.
- **Airport Resiliency and Emergency Power: \$600,000.** Currently, in the event of power loss Salem cannot operate its airfield lights, the air traffic control tower, the terminal building, or the fueling facilities. This is a major risk gap considering that in the event of a major natural disaster or other catastrophic event we would expect FEMA, the United States Air Force, the National Guard, and other emergency rescue and response aircraft to be able to operate to and from the Salem Willamette Valley Airport.
- **Fairview Park interpretative site: \$824,700.** Salem's 28-acre site Fairview Park Development and Management Plan envisions an Interpretative Space as a key park

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Women, minorities, and disabled are encouraged to apply•ADA Accommodations will be provided upon request

- feature to honor the site's history – including its past use as part of the Fairview Training Center – while also provided a dedicated space for education and reflect.
- **Re-Activate Peace Plaza: \$2,000,000.** Re-imagining Peace Plaza as an attractive, use-able and active community asset to promote accessibility and active use, greenspace enhancements to create a more inviting Plaza. The space was originally intended as the main entrance to the now Historic Civic Center and Salem Public Library. The Plaza is concrete, sits between the buildings, features the Crescent Probe sculpture by James Hansen, and a Peace Wall on the east side of the plaza, with flag display flags from Salem's Sister Cities.
- **River Road Slide Mitigation: \$2,000,000.** More than 12,000 vehicles a day travel South River Road to access south Salem, Independence, Monmouth, and other areas of Polk County to the I-5 corridor and downtown Salem. One-quarter mile stretch of the roadway is susceptible to rockslides, which results in a hazard to the public and road closures, and risk to the adjacent BNSF-owned railroad tracks. Despite efforts to minimize the frequency and impact of rock and mud slides, due to the high costs associated with permanent slide protection measures and lack of funding, the City has not been able to fully mitigate the danger to the public and the impact of closures on this critical transportation corridor. Other than ferries, this is the only other route that allows access to/from Salem and points further southwest such as Independence, Monmouth, and unincorporated areas of Marion and

The City of Salem encourages your support for our residents and their needs, and for the benefits we can achieve together for Salem.

Sincerely,



Julie Hoy
Mayor

cc: Salem Legislative Delegation