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May 6, 2021

The Honorable Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for the Bonding Authorization of \$32 million for the Newberg-Dundee Bypass in SB 5534

Dear Co-Chairs Holvey, Girod and Members of the Committee,

The City of Newberg joins our regional partners in asking for your strongest support of the Oregon Highway 99W/18 Bypass (Newberg-Dundee Bypass).

The Bypass (Highway 18 Salmon River Highway) is a critical transportation project of statewide importance in job creation, tourism, and as an emergency lifeline for the Willamette Valley (Yamhill and Polk Counties) and Central Coast counties of Tillamook and Lincoln.

Phase 1 of the bypass between Newberg and Dundee has been a tremendous success. We now urge you to wholeheartedly support the next step in this essential transportation route.

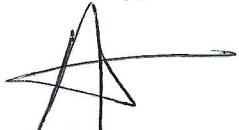
Thanks to investments made by the Legislature and the Oregon Transportation Commission over the past two years, Phase 2 of the bypass is now shovel ready. This \$32 million in state lottery bond funding will enable ODOT to move to construction on Phase II of the bypass while providing a critical state match that can leverage federal dollars to complete construction.

The timing becomes more urgent with anticipated redevelopment along the waterfront in Newberg. The sale of the former WestRock paper mill site occurred earlier this year and demolition is now under way. The 125-acre Willamette River site will be an industrial and employment hub essential to growth in the area and the region. Here, we are sideline cheering for the creation of family-wage trade sector jobs that can be an economic driver for years to come. For this to happen, completion of Phases 2 and 3 of the bypass is essential.

One other note: increased traffic from the I-5 Aurora-Donald exchange brought by the incomplete bypass has created additional safety issues at the intersection of highway 219 and the bypass. This request will remedy this very real concern.

Thank you for considering this request. Please let us know how we can be helpful moving forward.

Sincerely,



Rick Rogers
Mayor