



Marion County

OREGON

Board of Commissioners

May 7, 2021

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**BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair
Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chair
Members of the Joint Ways and Means
Committee on Capital Construction

Kevin Cameron, Chair
Danielle Bethell

Colm Willis

RE: Support SB 5534 - Newberg-Dundee Bypass - Bonding Authorization of \$32M

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

**CHIEF
ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICER**

Marion County would like to express our strong support for the Newberg-Dundee Bypass and urge you to provide funding to accelerate completion of the next phase of this vital project.

Jan Fritz

While each county has its local priorities, we are writing to highlight a regional project that has significance to Marion County and all of the communities that will benefit from a completed Newberg-Dundee Bypass. Just as the entire state of Oregon is impacted by the congestion in the Portland Metro area, the entire region stretching from Washington County, Yamhill and Marion Counties, to the Central Coast counties of Tillamook, Polk and Lincoln are impacted by the severe congestion on Oregon Highway 99W from the Portland metro area to the intersection with Oregon Highway 18 and beyond.

Highway 99W, a critically important highway connecting the Portland area to wine country and the Central Coast, has become a well-known bottleneck among tourists, businesses moving freight, and commuters alike. With 4 of the 11 miles of the Bypass built, we are much closer to a solution, however we must keep the project moving forward to realize all the benefits it can bring. Without completion of the full bypass, these traffic impacts will continue to result in significant diversion of traffic that increases congestion, and results in reduced safety on McKay, Yergen, and Ehlen roads in Marion County, which are heavily traveled. This diversion also results in increasing congestion at the Donald interchange on Interstate 5. Marion County has a duty to protect its citizens and agricultural enterprises from the adverse effects of excessive traffic, noise and air pollution, which will be significantly mitigated by the completion of the Newberg-Dundee Bypass.

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Support Newberg-Dundee Bypass
Bonding Authorization of \$32 million

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.

We appreciate your leadership and this opportunity to register our support.

Sincerely,



Kevin Cameron, Chair



Danielle Bethell, Vice Chair



Colm Willis, Commissioner