



Washington State Legislature

April 20, 2015

House Speaker Kotek
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, Rm. 269
Salem, Oregon 97301

Honorable Speaker Kotek:

As elected leaders in the Washington Legislature we understand the need for increased capacity in the I-5 corridor and the importance for making responsible choices to attain that goal. As you may be aware, some elected leaders in Washington have begun discussions about how to move forward to improve transportation in this region. Even though some legislators are tired and discouraged, we realize that without action, this important corridor will never be improved. While our recent efforts have been met with both skepticism and enthusiastic support, we feel it is most responsible if we try to build relationships and a PROCESS to develop a solution in the near future rather than wait many years down the road.

At this point, we have obtained a bi-partisan approved agreement for a \$100,000 budget line item in the Washington Transportation Operating Budget to seek a path forward that would achieve both community and legislative support. This budget passed the Washington State House of Representatives on April 9th and it is nearly certain to remain in our two-year transportation operating budget as it heads to the Governor's desk.

As the Speaker of the Oregon House and the representative of the district most affected by the issue, your leadership will play a critical role in advancing an affordable solution that meets our region's transportation needs. We appreciate your consideration to champion a similar measure in the Oregon House of Representatives so that we can proceed together in this effort.

The proposed process includes:

1. **Accountability:** A standing bipartisan, bicameral, bi-state committee made up of elected state legislators whose districts are adjacent to the project area and/or are members of state transportation committees, since legislators would ultimately be responsible for approving the plan and it's financing.
2. **Affordability:** Identifying and adopting a budget for the project based on federal grant funding commitments and phased state funding from Oregon and Washington.

3. Action: Establishing a rigorous public process to prioritize and rank a project list that has broad community support on both sides of the river and fits the identified budget, and moving forward in a timely manner.

Our citizens are asking us to find new and workable solutions. We share a commitment to tackle the difficult problems in our communities. We hope that you and other Oregon legislators with an interest in this process would be willing to meet with us as soon as your schedules allow. Given the short time before your legislature adjourns, we will of course be flexible on both time and locations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Clibborn". The script is fluid and cursive.

Judy Clibborn, Chair
WA House Transportation Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Pike". The script is fluid and cursive.

Liz Pike
State Representative, 18th District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Wylie". The script is fluid and cursive.

Sharon Wylie
State Representative, 49th District