



March 29, 2017

Honorable Senator Lee Beyer, Chair  
Senate Committee on Business and Transportation  
900 Court Street, NE  
Salem, OR 97301

### **City of Eugene Supports SB 1020-Transit Funding**

The City of Eugene supports SB1020, which would provide \$30 million of lottery backed bonds towards the capital construction costs for the expansion of our region's transit programs. The City of Eugene and Lane Transit District's (LTD) collaborative effort on expanding regional transit improvements-Moving Ahead- is slated to enter into a public comment period this fall, with the identification of a locally preferred alternative and prioritization scheduled before the end of 2017.

City of Eugene is committed to working with the community to improve transportation options and increase safety on key corridors. In the next 20 years, Eugene's population is forecast to grow 23% and employment by 42%. Increased transit service is a primary requirement for our ability to meet our regional prosperity goals, our local and state greenhouse gas reduction targets, advance our compact growth and land use goals, and implement our 2035 Transportation System Plan.

Transit is also core to our future growth plans to be able to grow in place and save long-term investment in expanding our roadway and other infrastructure network with outward expansion. Quality transit is an important piece of our business attraction and retention strategies, particularly in the technology and innovation fields on which the City has focused.

The funding request for this year is critical due to a key timeline for competing for federal funds. Working with LTD, the Moving Ahead capital projects are expected to apply for a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 'Small Starts' grant application in the summer of 2018. Recently, FTA has signaled that the Small Starts program will be extremely competitive, and only those projects that have secured the local match funding will be awarded federal funds. Funding from the 2017 Legislature is critical to the success of this project.

Please support SB 1020 as a means to advance our regional and statewide transportation goals, our greenhouse gas reduction efforts, and increase the livability for our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alan Zelenka".

Alan Zelenka, President  
Eugene City Council