

CITY OF BEND

June 6, 2017

Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization
Senator Lee Beyer, Co-Chair
Representative Caddy McKeown, Co-Chair

900 Court St NE, Room 453
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chairs Beyer and McKeown,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2017-3, the transportation funding package.

The City of Bend supports the house bill and appreciates the work of the Joint Committee now and over this past year to develop a multi modal transportation funding package for the state.

In Bend, like many other communities, we struggle to find new and innovative ways to fund our transportation system. We are a rapidly growing area which supports a regional economy and need a stable and reliable transportation system to preserve what we have and match our growth.

The City is encouraged that the committee is focused on the following sections of the bill:

- Safety projects and program
- Continuation of the Safe Routes to School program
- Connect Oregon projects and funding
- Public transportation funding

The City has more specific comments about fuel taxes and the Congestion Relief District. The proposed fuel tax increases for street maintenance will go a long way for helping us to close the gap in our significant back log of street maintenance needs. We realize tax increases are not necessarily

710 NW WALL STREET
PO Box 431
BEND, OR 97709
541-388-5505 TEL
Relay Users Dial 7-1-1
541-385-6676 fax
bendoregon.gov

MAYOR
Casey Roats

MAYOR PRO TEM
Sally Russell

CITY COUNCILORS
Justin Livingston
Bill Moseley
Bruce Abernethy
Nathan Boddie
Barb Campbell

CITY MANAGER
Eric King

popular and should be tied to efficiencies and performance. The City is committed to using any increase in fuel taxes in the most efficient and prudent manner possible. We have good street management methods and systems and can put any new funds to immediate use.

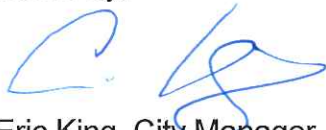
The Congestion Relief District sections of the bill is innovative and the City of Bend welcomes the opportunity to participate with the Bend Metropolitan Planning Organization to become a Congestion Relief District. The City believes there are some improvements to the bill we would like the Committee to consider:

We suggest for administrative ease, efficiency, and timing, that a District be approved by the Oregon Transportation Commission. Over the years the City has worked directly with ODOT on getting a Highway 97 Environmental Impact Statement alternative approved and we are now in design on parts of that alternative today and would like to see the design finish and construction to begin likely before the next legislative session.

The City suggests the bill be more flexible in how it would allow the City and the Bend MPO to access the congestion relief funds such as allowing the City to use other sources of funds such as urban renewal as the basis for its portion of the project funding.

We look forward to the Congestion Relief Districts and support the overall bill and look forward to assisting the Committee during the hearing and deliberation process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric King', is written over a circular stamp or mark.

Eric King, City Manager

CC: Bend City Council