



## City of Tigard

June 7, 2017

Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization  
900 Court St. NE, S-213  
Salem, Oregon 97301

### *RE: Support for HB 2017*

Dear Co-Chairs Beyer and McKeown and Committee Members:

I am writing to convey support of the Tigard City Council for HB 2017, the comprehensive funding and policy package being considered by the Oregon Legislature. The proposed legislation makes significant investments assisting cities as we collectively continue to address challenges facing the local funding portion of the state's transportation network

Tigard, like many other cities, is struggling to keep up with basic maintenance and urgently needed system improvements. We have adopted a local Street Maintenance Fee to support our part of this work, but we cannot maintain without state leadership. HB 2017 provides that leadership and will benefit Tigard and the region directly in a couple of ways, including:

- Continuing the ConnectOregon program with increased funding for critical air, marine, rail, transit and bicycle/pedestrian projects. In recent years, we have leveraged ConnectOregon funds to develop the Tigard Street Heritage Trail and Hunziker Industrial Core.
- Funding a system-wide investment in the three principal bottlenecks in the Portland region. The city has worked with Metro's intergovernmental Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) to support partnering with ODOT to fund the three state priority highway bottleneck improvements in the region: I-5 at the Rose Quarter, Highway 217 north and south, and I-205/Abernethy Bridge between Stafford Road and Highway 99E.

In thinking about ways to strengthen the proposal, we urge you to consider providing additional funding for "orphan highways" to be brought up to standard. Both Hall Boulevard and Highway 99W in Tigard are state-owned highways maintained by the Oregon Department of Transportation.

The Tigard City Council understands legislation at this scale, especially involving the commitment of significant new revenues as envisioned in HB 2017, is not an easy vote. We support you, and hope you will not close out the 2017 Legislative Session without passing this bill.

Sincerely,

John L. Cook, Mayor  
City of Tigard