



June 7, 2017

Hello my name is Pam Treece and I am the executive director of Westside Economic Alliance. Thank you Co Chairs Senator Beyer and Representative McKeown and members of the committee. Westside Economic Alliance appreciates the opportunity to be here today.

First of all, Westside Economic Alliance would like to commend you all for the work that has been done to date. The package was developed on the basis of need. Your input came from conversations across the state with the Governor's Vision Panel. I participated in the Hillsboro stop and learned firsthand how you received information and, also, how you provided information from other locations—for example, the desperate need for transit support to more rural communities.

We believe that a comprehensive transportation package should include:

1. funding for congestion relief especially for the three principal bottlenecks in metro region. The Rose Quarter, I-205 at the Abernathy Bridge and hwy. 217
2. stable transit funding to expand service across Oregon
3. stable funding for connect Oregon that includes investments for rail, transit, bike/ped, marine and airports.
4. Solid oversight for the use of the funds

It should be no surprise to anyone the critical nature for transportation investment in our region. This is not only a commuter issue. We have key freight corridors throughout this region that demand investment as a statewide system. In order to reduce congestion, investments in transportation need to be across all modes including active transportation and transit.

As you are aware, WEA administered the Washington County Freight Study earlier this year. We learned many things but key learnings include:

- In a trade dependent state, Washington County is the economic engine. As a result, our county is highly freight dependent.
- Limited and constrained access in and out of the county is a regional and state wide freight issue.
- Delay and reliability within the Washington County are major concerns.
- Congestion represents a significant cost to all businesses.

Again, I want to stress that the three bottlenecks are critical and require an investment commitment as a system. Funding that includes hwy 217 is critical to Oregon's very important business cluster; the Westside of the metro region. In the future, the transportation infrastructure in Washington County will need additional investments including the possibility of a North South connector, but right now, you need to make certain that the three bottlenecks have appropriate funding and will be fixed.

On a final note I would like to underscore the significance of the willingness of the region to have a higher tax and fee structure to pay for half of the bottlenecks. This is literally unprecedented in any previous transportation package created in our State. It represents skin in the game and once again, underscores the critical need we are facing both regionally and statewide.

Thank you for your time.