

Mayor
Honorable Lori Chavez-DeRemer



City Manager
Jason A. Tuck, ICMA-CM

November 26, 2018

Board of Commissioners
Clackamas County
2051 Kaen Road
Oregon City, OR 97045

Dear Board of County Commissioners:

On behalf of the Happy Valley City Council, I would like to provide feedback on the proposed vehicle registration fee (VRF).

We recognize Clackamas County is the only metropolitan area county that does not have a local source of revenue dedicated towards transportation. For nearly a decade, the Clackamas County Coordinating Committee (C4) has expressed that more funds are needed to support road maintenance and future capacity needs. As our region grows, we understand the need to keep up so traffic moves reliably and safely, while also supporting our economy.

If the Board of County Commissioners enacts a VRF, we think it's important for residents to know how the funds would be used. While the City would only have control over a small portion of the funds collected, it's critical they are prioritized to meet our community's needs. To that end, the funds in Happy Valley would be utilized to complete gaps in the sidewalk system, improve ADA accessibility, add bike lanes, and support routine road maintenance. As needs evolve over time, we may also consider using them to support future road capacity projects.

If a VRF is enacted, the City is supportive of the proposal from C4 to create a strategic investment fund from the county's portion of the revenue as a new tool to promote cross jurisdictional coordination to meet our mutual congestion relief and maintenance objectives.

As a growing community, it would also be important that the population figures used for the revenue distribution formula be updated on an annual basis. We recommend using the Portland State University Population Research Center estimates.

Finally, we ask that a VRF have strong community backing prior to enacting it by the Board of County Commissioners. It's important our residents support the direction we take with their limited dollars.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our feedback.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lori Chavez-DeRemer'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Lori Chavez-DeRemer
Mayor

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Preserving and enhancing the safety, livability and character of our community