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We are local jurisdictions and organizations living with debilitating congestion that is plaguing our state's highway system. Millions depend on a functioning and seismically-resilient I-205 corridor that is safe and promotes a healthy economy accessible to all. It is therefore incumbent upon the state to identify a funding solution that prioritizes this critical need.

We call on the Legislature to pass the proposal being brought by more than a dozen legislators to reallocate transportation dollars for construction of this nearly shovel-ready project.

Community Support and Readiness: There is broad community support for fixing the Abernethy Bridge and widening I-205. The Legislature long ago identified the I-205 bottleneck between Stafford Road and OR 213 as a signature congestion relief project for the state.

I-205 will be fully designed this year thanks to ODOT's early investment of \$53 million for planning and design. But under current plans, construction will be delayed until 2023 at the earliest due to a lack of funding. The total cost of the project is \$460 million, and each year that we wait the estimated project cost increases by \$15 million.

This transportation project reflects several important values that Oregonians expect:

Safety – As a designated statewide north-south lifeline route, I-205 will be called upon to provide supplies and services to the region shortly after a disaster. Immediate action is needed to seismically upgrade the Abernethy Bridge and eight other bridges in the project area to withstand a major earthquake.

Economic Opportunity – The federal government has designated I-205 as a High Priority Corridor in the Portland metropolitan area. It connects employers, the traveling public, and businesses to the Portland International Airport, the State of Washington, and numerous local jurisdictions. This corridor serves as vital infrastructure for the economic health of both the region and the entire State of Oregon.

Quality of Life – When the Governor's Transportation Vision Panel met with communities statewide in 2016 seeking input on a transportation package, the public and businesses from all corners of Oregon sent a clear message about the need to address highway congestion in the Portland region, and in particular the I-205 bottleneck. Fixing this bottleneck will not only reduce the congestion caused by daily commuters dependent on this route, but it also prepares the corridor to accommodate transit alternatives such as future bus service. Advancing this project now also ensures that I-205 will have the needed capacity to manage traffic diversion related to the anticipated construction of the Rose Quarter project and replacement of the I-5 Bridge. These projects and the region are dependent upon a diversion route that will not fail and further stall mobility in the region.

We can't let these critical capacity and seismic upgrades languish. The project is ready and action is needed now. We support the legislative proposal to reprioritize state transportation investments to address the I-205 bottleneck.

Our communities are ready to go.