



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**PUBLIC SERVICES BUILDING**

2051 KAEN ROAD | OREGON CITY, OR 97045

Vice Chair Julie Brown  
Oregon Transportation Commission  
Oregon Department of Transportation  
355 Capitol St. NE, MS11  
Salem, OR 97301-3871

May 31, 2023

Dear Vice Chair Brown and Commissioners:

Clackamas County concurs with the Washington County Board of Commissioners' April 18, 2023 letter regarding the role of the Region 1 Area Committee on Transportation (R1ACT). As Washington County identified, direct and regular engagement with members of the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) is crucial to achieving the primary mission of the ACTs—advising the OTC on policies and project priorities.

We appreciate the OTC creating the regional ACTs to elevate local voices in policy development. Clackamas County was a key stakeholder in the creation of the Region 1 ACT. Because our county has the largest rural population of any county in Oregon, one of our main priorities during the formation of the Region 1 ACT was to address rural needs and to include rural voices.

Rural travelers contribute to the broader commute shed and urban traffic patterns. They need safety and adequate capacity on the rural highways that connect to our state's urban centers. The Portland region's federally mandated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT), focuses on the urban areas within their boundary, which benefit from multiple funding streams. Transportation projects in rural areas have fewer funding options. The R1ACT can and should serve as the table to discuss and balance both rural and urban investments. We encourage the OTC and ODOT to prioritize substantive policy discussions affecting rural areas at R1ACT meetings.

Additionally, the R1ACT is a crucial table for local jurisdictions to engage in ongoing, major policy and funding discussions such as tolling and road user fee proposals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**NAME**

CC: Rian Windsheimer, ODOT Region 1 Manager