



CITY OF West Linn

December 10, 2018

Clackamas County
2051 Kaen Rd
Oregon City, OR 97045

RE: Support for Clackamas County to enact a Vehicle Registration Fee

Dear Board of County Commissioners:

On behalf of the City of West Linn, we support Clackamas County's consideration to enact a countywide vehicle registration fee (VRF) to meet ever-increasing needs for our county and local transportation systems. This would provide the cities and county with greater ability and additional resources to address congestion, safety and maintenance needs on our roads.

Clackamas County is the only one of the three Portland metropolitan area counties that has no local source of transportation revenue. As we have discussed at the Clackamas County Coordinating Committee (C4), new, stable and locally controlled revenue will help the county and cities promote local values such as addressing maintenance needs on aging roadways, and will support opportunities for new projects needed to support multimodal traffic moving reliably and safely throughout our growing region. Additionally, proposals at C4 to create a strategic investments fund from potential county VRF revenue offers a new tool to promote cross jurisdictional coordination to meet our mutual congestion relief and maintenance objectives.

The City of West Linn views this funding as an important part of our need to address local street maintenance and advance improvements to important corridors in West Linn such as Willamette Falls Drive. User fees, such as that represented by the VRF, are not only a credible approach to addressing our roadway needs, but the data presented at C4 indicate that Clackamas County's vehicle registration fees are well behind those of other jurisdictions. This funding is expected to further unify the County and partner cities to better position regionally important projects in the growing competition for limited regional, state, and federal grant funds.

We recognize and appreciate that passage of a local funding ordinance can be a challenge, but it is also necessary to respond to countywide needs such as crumbling roads, safety hazards, and ever-increasing commute times. We support Clackamas County making a bold decision today to address local funding needs through passage of a VRF by ordinance.

Sincerely,

Russell B. Axelrod, Mayor
West Linn City Council