



**MEMORANDUM**

To: Clackamas County Board of County Commissioners  
From: Tonia Holowetzki, Director, Public & Government Affairs  
RE: Federal Legislative Update by Summit Strategies  
Date: April 15, 2025

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**REQUEST:** None. This is an informational update on federal affairs by Summit Strategies.

**BACKGROUND:** The county contracts with the advocacy firm Summit Strategies to develop and implement federal strategies to accomplish county goals. Summit Strategies also represents the county in Washington, D.C.

In January 2025, the Board of County Commissioners approved the county's 2025 federal agenda with the following priorities:

- Federal funding to support the **I-205 Improvements Project, Sunrise Corridor, and Bull Run Bridge.**
- Support funding for **housing and human services programs** and other county operations reliant on federal resources.
- Advocate for and support **the Willamette Falls & Landings area designation as a National Heritage Area (NHA)** and improvements to **the Willamette Falls Locks.**
- Support legislation for the responsible and sustainable **management of federal forestlands**, including Oregon and California Rail Trust (O&C) Lands, for **wildfire prevention and predictable revenue to counties from shared timber receipts.**
- Support legislation and funding to **reduce per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the environment and water systems, and protect the county from undue liability from pass-through chemicals.**
- Support legislation to advocate for **Mt. Hood** recreation, access, and protection.

The county is also pursuing congressionally directed spending to support the Clackamas Recovery Campus, Clackamas Area Interceptor Improvement Project, and the Mt Hood Access to Transit Project.

**RECOMMENDATION:** None, informational update only.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonia Holowetzki, Director, Public & Government Affairs

**ATTACHMENTS**

**#A:** Clackamas County 2025 Federal Legislative Agenda



Attachment A

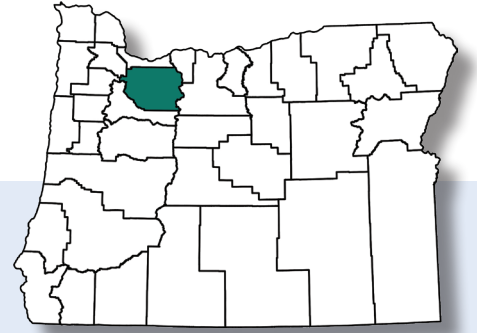
# Clackamas County 2025 Congressional Briefing



## Clackamas County Board of Commissioners

Craig Roberts – Chair   Paul Savas   Martha Schrader   Ben West

# Clackamas County by the numbers



Land Area:	1,879 sq. miles
City, County & State Roads:	2,428 miles
Persons per sq. mile:	227
% of Federal Forest:	52%
2023 Population:	426,500
Civilian Labor Force:	227,136 (Nov/24)
Employed Labor Force:	218,507 (Nov/24)
Unemployment Rate:	4.1% (Nov/24)
2024/Q2 Average Wage:	\$68,884
Per Capita Income (2023):	\$51,666
Clackamas County's fastest growing cities:	Happy Valley (1), Sandy (2) Estacada (3) Wilsonville (4) and Molalla (5)

## Clackamas County Public and Government Affairs

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See more about  
County Legislative Priorities

# 2025 Clackamas County Federal Legislative Policy Agenda



*Clackamas County is urban, suburban, rural, and wild. We are dedicated to welcoming new residents and businesses and committed to delivering community services that are dependable, accessible, and equitable to the public.*

## County Initiative

Federal funding to support transportation projects.

- **I-205 Improvements Project** - Advocating for federal funding to support construction of the I-205 Improvements Project, which would resolve a congested bottleneck by adding a third lane in each direction on I-205 between Stafford Road and OR 213, including the Abernethy Bridge.
- Identify federal funding opportunities to advance Phase II of the **Sunrise Corridor**, consistent with the community visioning work.
  - Promote findings from the community visioning work.
- Advocate for federal funding to support **the Bull Run Bridge** replacement project.

## County Priorities

- Support funding for **housing and human services programs** and other county operations that are reliant on federal resources.
- Advocate for and support **the Willamette Falls & Landings area designation as a National Heritage Area (NHA)** and improvements to **the Willamette Falls Locks**.
- Support legislation for the responsible and sustainable **management of federal forestlands**, including Oregon and California Rail Trust (O&C) Lands, for **wildfire prevention and predictable revenue to counties from shared timber receipts**.
- Support legislation and funding to **reduce PFAS\* in the environment and water systems and protect the county from undue liability from pass-through chemicals**. Clackamas County is dedicated to protecting public health and the environment. *\*Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)*
- Support legislation to advocate for **Mt. Hood** recreation, access, and protection.

# LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

Clackamas County's policy positions will be guided by the five strategic goals below.



## **Build a Strong Infrastructure**

The county supports legislation that encourages long-term investments in major infrastructure projects to improve the quality of life of county residents. Successful legislation will ease congestion, expand travel options, enhance seismic and climate resiliency, spur economic growth, stimulate employment, increase housing inventory, broaden telecommunication access, and promote science-based and ratepayer-minded water quality protections.



## **Ensure Safe, Healthy, and Secure Communities**

The county supports legislation that improves the health, safety, and well-being of all county residents and communities. Successful legislation will support access to community assets, such as parks and libraries, and assist vulnerable populations, including residents who are facing homelessness, substance abuse and addictions, behavioral health challenges, and public health threats. Legislation also should help to reduce the rate of crime and recidivism, promote and sustain best practices for justice-involved individuals, improve emergency communications and disaster preparedness, and protect survivors of domestic violence and child abuse.



## **Grow a Vibrant Economy**

The county supports legislation that incentivizes businesses to grow and prosper. Successful legislation will ensure the county has dedicated resources for attracting and growing industries, workforce, and childcare, and has access to an adequate supply of shovel-ready employment lands to expand economic development opportunities.



## **Honor, Utilize, Promote & Invest in our Natural Resources**

The county supports legislation that ensures effective and sustainable management and conservation of our abundant natural and agricultural resources. Successful legislation will stimulate and preserve the integrity of our natural resource-based economy, reduce and sequester carbon emissions, enhance wildfire and natural hazard resiliency, and adhere to the public process of Oregon's land use system.



## **Build Public Trust through Good Government**

The county supports legislation that enhances the county's ability to deliver effective, reliable, and equitable services to residents. Successful legislation will maintain the county's financial sustainability, allocate sufficient resources, preserve state and county shared revenue agreements, support county efforts to attract and retain qualified employees and ensure adequate community engagement. Legislation should not impose unfunded mandates, preempt local tax sources, or restrict local government authority.

# FY 2025-2026 Congressionally Directed Spending Project List



## Mt. Hood Access to Transit

*Clackamas County seeks \$3 million congressionally directed spending to advance critical transit infrastructure on Mt. Hood.*

Mt. Hood is an economic driver for Clackamas County and the State of Oregon. The Mt. Hood Express, a public bus service administered by Clackamas County, seeks to address mountain traffic and state freight route functionality through the construction of a public transit transfer facility near the rural community of Welches.

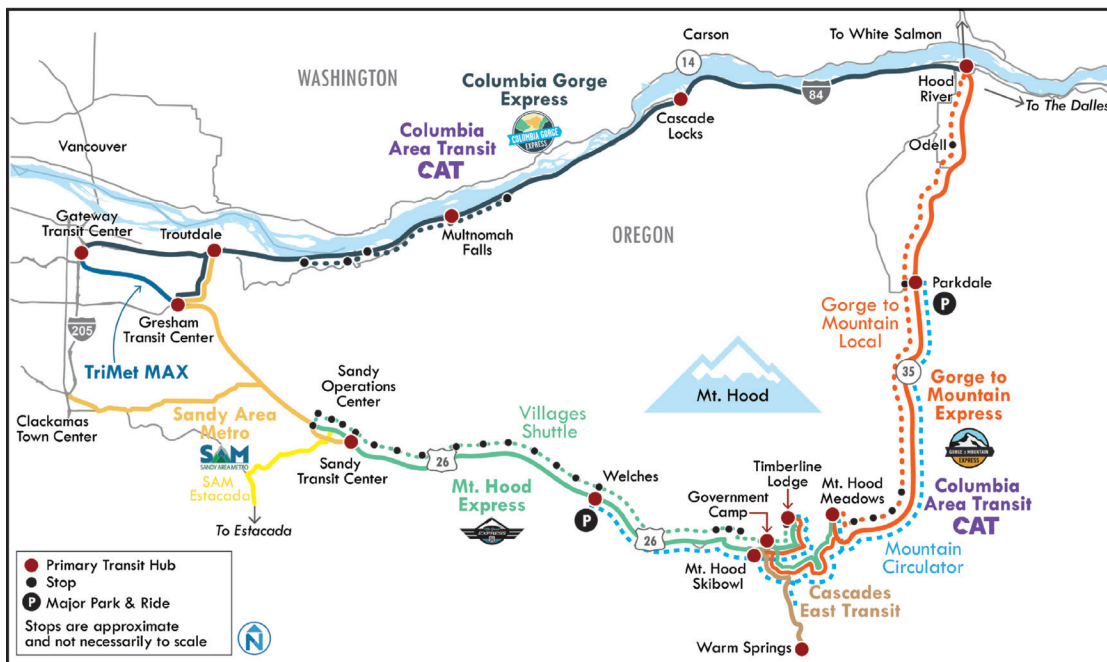


Construction of a public transit transfer facility will allow for increased bus ridership to Government Camp and other mountain destinations. Facility completion will also support concurrent efforts in Government Camp to relocate rest areas and install a transit hub.

With project planning and development efforts underway, Clackamas County is poised to conduct property acquisition and begin construction when funds become available.

### Planning for the future

This project advances a component of the larger Vision Around the Mountain plan (2021), a long-term, regional transit vision for public transportation serving Mt. Hood via OR 35, US 26, and I-84.



# Clackamas Housing Infrastructure Project

*Clackamas County seeks \$4 million in congressionally directed spending to reduce sanitary sewer overflow risks, provide wastewater security to 56,000 existing housing units, and support the production of 16,400 new housing units.*

Clackamas Water Environment Services (WES) owns and operates the sewer system serving homes and businesses in Happy Valley and unincorporated areas in northern Clackamas County. Whereas the City of Happy Valley continues to be one of the fastest growing cities in the state, improvements to the Clackamas Area primary sewer line (interceptor) are needed to support the city's desire for housing and job production, while maintaining regulatory compliance.

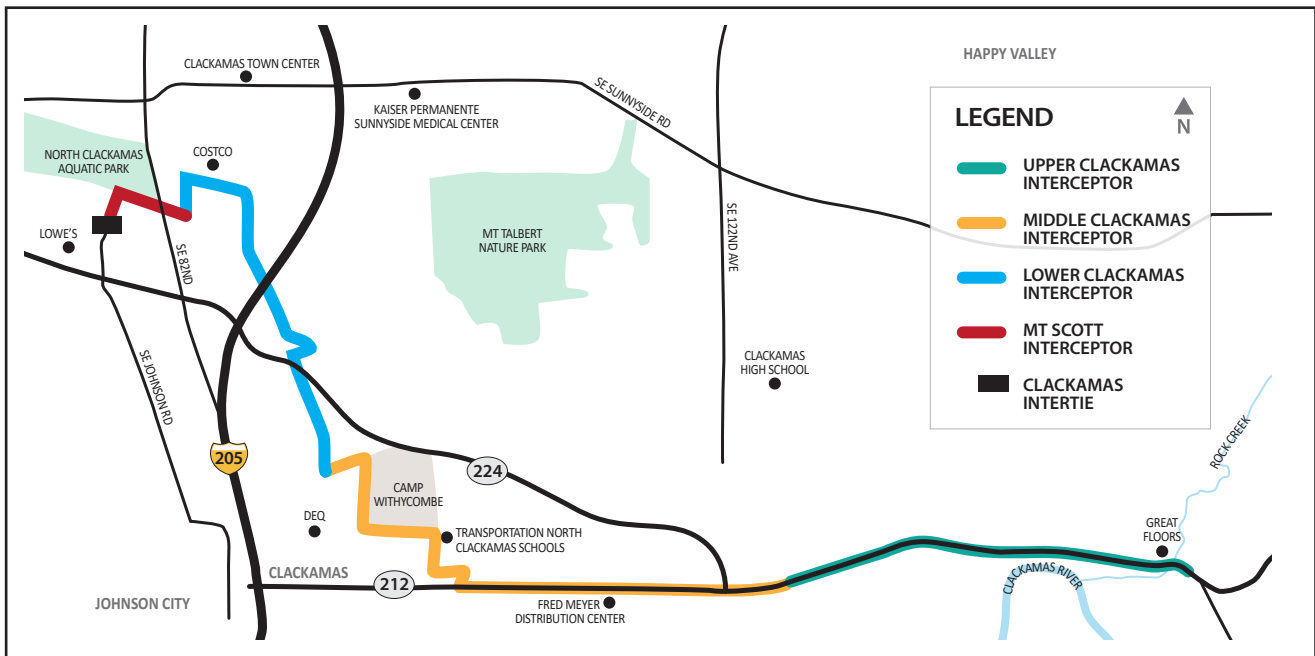
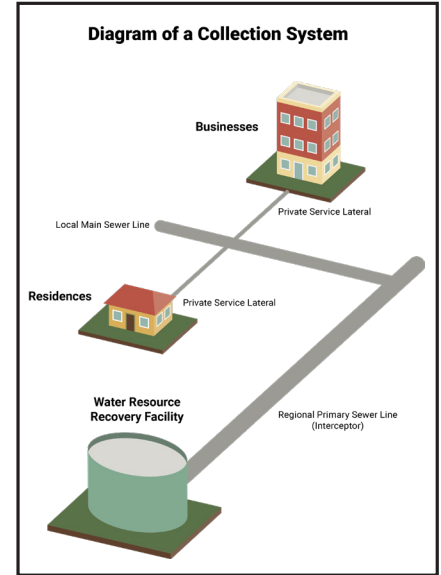
The Clackamas Area Interceptor Improvement Project will replace existing pipe with new larger-diameter pipe to increase service capacity. In some cases, the pipe may be relocated to improve the overall connectivity of the system.

The project is currently in the design phase, with construction on the Middle Clackamas Interceptor segment expected to begin in Fiscal Year 2026-2027. Federal funding will support the construction phase of the Middle Clackamas Interceptor segment.

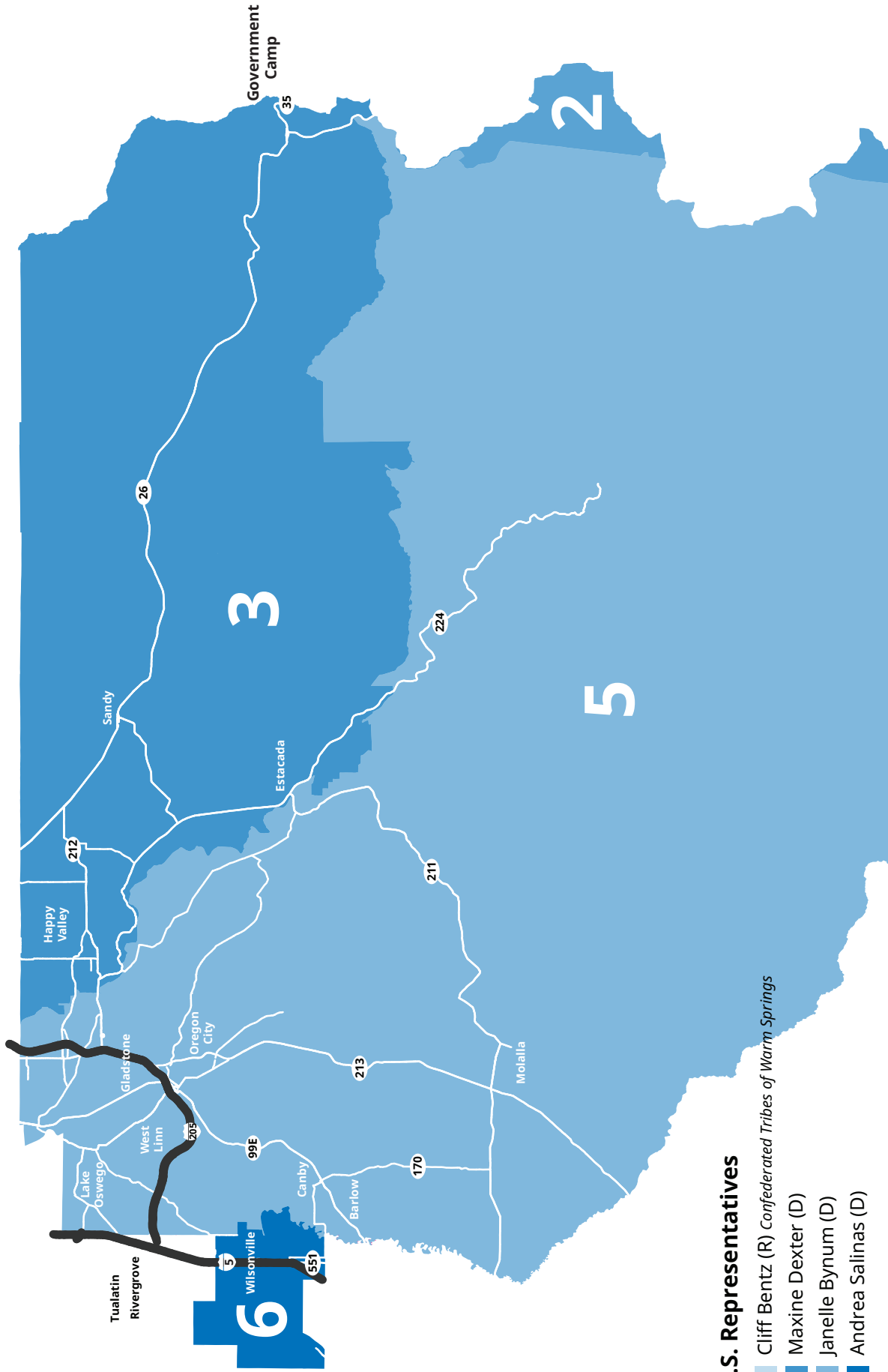
## Planning for the future

Proposed improvements are a critical part of WES' Capital Improvement Plan and ongoing facility improvements identified by the Sanitary Sewer Master Plan. WES is committed to keeping rates affordable and in line with the local area average while ensuring the collection system can meet future demands and maintain regulatory compliance.

To learn more about the project, visit: [www.clackamas.us/wes/caiip](http://www.clackamas.us/wes/caiip)



# Congressional Districts in Clackamas County 2025-2027



## U.S. Representatives

- 2 Cliff Bentz (R) Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- 3 Maxine Dexter (D)
- 5 Janelle Bynum (D)
- 6 Andrea Salinas (D)

## U.S. Senators

- Jeff Merkley (D)
- Ron Wyden (D)



