

April 23, 2018

Cathy Clark, Chair  
SKATS Policy Committee  
100 High Street SE  
Salem OR 97301

Dear Chair Clark,

In 2017, the Salem City Council undertook an extensive process to develop the Salem Strategic Plan. Environmental Action is one of seven priority areas identified in the plan. The goal is to prepare a community-wide environmental strategy, including a Climate Action Plan that prioritizes reductions of greenhouse gas emissions. Partnerships will be instrumental in making measurable progress toward this desired outcome.

The City Council supports the work done by SKATS to plan for and help fund the regional transportation system. An efficient transportation system is vital to our economy and supports a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. As you embark on the 2019 update to the *Regional Transportation Systems Plan* and on behalf of the City Council, I request that you strengthen the proposed goal statement on the environment to emphasize the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Our proposed language is, "Planned to minimize the impact(s) to the natural and built environment and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your efforts to support an efficient regional transportation system.

Sincerely,

Chuck Bennett  
Mayor