



MAYOR'S OFFICE

555 Liberty St SE / Room 220 • Salem, OR 97301-3513 • 503-588-6159 • Fax 503-588-6354

February 12, 2019

Phillip Ditzler, Administrator
Oregon Division
Federal Highway Administration
530 Center Street NE, Suite 420
Salem OR 97301

Matthew Garrett, Director
Oregon Department of Transportation
355 Capitol Street NE, MS11
Salem OR 97301-3871

SUBJECT: Salem City Council commitment to take up for consideration the land use actions necessary to complete the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Salem River Crossing Project

Dear Mr. Ditzler and Mr. Garrett:

At its meeting on February 11, 2019, the Salem City Council voted to take up for consideration in the near future the land use actions needed by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to complete the Final Environmental Impact Statement with the currently identified Preferred Alternative for the Salem River Crossing Project. These actions include addressing the issues on remand by the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals and concurring with a preliminary determination by the Federal Highway Administration that the impacts of the Preferred Alternative on Wallace Marine Park are *de minimis*.

Completing these actions will require one or more Council votes in which the majority must carry the appropriate motion. As Mayor, I cannot guarantee the outcome of these future actions. I have, however, received a commitment from all Councilors that they will take action on all the matters in a timely manner and, at this point, I believe there is sufficient support within the Council for the needed actions to be approved.

Members of the Council are aware that if these actions are not completed, ODOT will not be able to complete the Final Environmental Impact Statement with the currently identified Preferred Alternative for the Salem River Crossing Project, and there will not be sufficient time remaining before a September 30, 2019, deadline for the Federal Highway Administration to issue a No Build Record of Decision under the National Environmental Policy Act. Councilors are fully aware that under this scenario, the Federal Highway Administration has stated its intentions to require repayment of federal money expended since 2006 on the project, an amount of several million dollars that would be taken from state and regional transportation funds.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Women, minorities, and disabled are encouraged to apply • ADA Accommodations will be provided upon request

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Matthew Garrett, Director, ODOT
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I want to express my appreciation to you and your staff for the guidance and support you have provided to the City of Salem over the past 13 years of the Salem River Crossing Project.

Respectfully yours,

Chuck Bennett
Mayor

cc: Sonny Chickering, PE, Region 2 Manager, Oregon Department of Transportation
Cathy Clark, Mayor, City of Keizer
Sam Brentano, Marion County Board of Commissioner
Craig Pope, Polk County Board of Commissioner
Robert Krebs, President, Cherriots
Sean O'Day, Executive Director, Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments