



CITY OF West Linn

Mayor Dan Holladay
City of Oregon City
625 Center Street
Oregon City, OR 97045

October 23, 2017

Dear Mayor Holladay,

I am writing to seek Oregon City's financial support for the next two years for the effort to repair and reopen the Willamette Falls Locks. We have accomplished quite a bit in the past few years, mostly with volunteer support, but with negotiations and a federal process with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the horizon, more needs to be done, including the hiring of staff, legal support, and technical consultants. We hope that all interested parties, including the City of Oregon City, will support this work.

As you know, the Willamette Falls Locks have been closed to all river traffic since 2011. The Willamette Falls Locks Working Group – a coalition of governments, businesses, nonprofit organizations and individuals – has been working since then to ensure the Willamette River remains one river for navigational purposes, linking the headwaters south of Eugene to the Columbia River in Portland.

The USACE, which owns the Locks, is now proceeding on an expedited schedule towards a decision on the future of the Locks. On May 23, the USACE released a draft disposition study and plan that proposes to either close the Locks permanently with concrete or identify an entity that will accept ownership of the Locks with minimal repairs. The plan shows little regard for Oregon's statewide and local community interests and support. Recently, the Working Group and many other stakeholders provided comments on the USACE draft study, but we will have to move quickly and diligently to ensure that our interests are addressed in the final plan and its execution.

Earlier this year, the Oregon legislature unanimously passed Senate Bill 256 to support the Locks repair and transfer process. SB 256 created a permanent Willamette Falls Locks Commission as the policy-making and advisory body for issues relating to the Locks, but funding for the effort was trimmed considerably in the end. The Locks Commission will include many individuals from the current Working Group along with other stakeholders and select House and Senate members. The Governor will appoint most members of the Commission later this year, including representatives from Wilsonville, West Linn and Oregon City to represent cities along the river.

The Working Group has developed a work plan and a two-year budget that we believe to be the minimum necessary to accomplish our goals within the USACE timeline based on current understanding. Because funding from the 2017 Oregon Legislature was limited, funds from local and regional partners such as Oregon City are more important than ever.

As shown in the attached budget, two-year costs are estimated at \$864,116 including:

- Technical engineering and economic studies to understand the immediate and long-term infrastructure needs of the Locks and the potential benefits of keeping them open;
- Public outreach and engagement;
- State and Federal advocacy;
- Materials and supplies; and
- 1.1 FTE staff (overseen by Clackamas County) to manage the work.

Many partners have already committed funds for this effort, including:

- \$400,000 from the State of Oregon through a 2016-2017 appropriation;
- \$104,510 from businesses, economic development interests, river users and Clackamas County tourism;
- \$120,000 from Clackamas County; and
- \$120,000 from Metro.

This leaves \$120,000 that was allocated for funding from the principal interested cities up and down the nearby river corridor area.

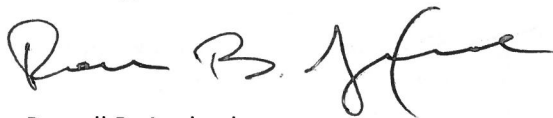
As Co-Chair of the Working Group, I am requesting your direct financial support for our cities' share of the estimated costs. West Linn, home of the Locks, will be providing \$15,000 per year in addition to a significant commitment of staff time. Our proposal is for Oregon City to contribute \$7,000 each year in 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. A full list of proposed city shares is attached for your information.

If it would help, I would be pleased to discuss this with you at any time or attend an upcoming Oregon City Council meeting or work session to discuss this project and its importance and address any comments or questions you may have.

You can reach me directly at raxelrod@westlinnoregon.gov / (503) 312-8464 or your staff can contact John Williams, West Linn's Community Development Director, at jwilliams@westlinnoregon.gov / (503) 742-6063.

I very much appreciate your support and interest in seeing the Locks repaired and our river corridor reopened, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Russell B. Axelrod
Mayor,
City of West Linn

Attachments:

Willamette Falls Locks Commission draft budget for 2017-2018
Proposal for city cost sharing

Willamette Falls Locks "Commission" Draft Budget v.7 w/o OR Solutions

Core Budget

		2017	2018	2-Year Total
Senior Project Manager	0.90	\$76,500		
Administrative Assistant	0.20	\$9,000		
Fringe	37%	\$31,635		
Salary Total		\$117,135		
Overhead (rent, utilities, computers, copiers, etc.)	56%	\$65,596		
Subtotal Personnel		\$182,731	\$186,385	\$369,116
Oregon Solutions facilitation*		\$0	\$0	
DOJ Legal Support*		\$0		
Economic Benefit Study**		\$0		
Engineering Consultant		\$75,000		
Public Outreach (incl. Sandy)		\$35,000	\$45,000	
Advocacy Support (incl. state and federal lobbyist)		\$145,000	\$145,000	\$290,000
Materials, Supplies, Travel		\$25,000	\$25,000	
Clackamas County Administrative Cost		\$0	\$0	
Subtotal M&S		\$280,000	\$215,000	\$495,000
EXPENSE TOTAL		\$462,731	\$401,385	\$864,116

State Funding:

FY 16-17 Appropriation		\$400,000		\$400,000
FY 17-19 SB 256 - Oregon Solutions funding*		\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 17-19 SB 256 - DOJ funding*		\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 17-19 Budget Reconciliation Bill for state's share of core budget for due diligence		\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 17-19 Budget Reconciliation Bill for Clackamas County		\$0	\$0	\$0
Administrative Cost in lieu of \$222,500 of state agency		\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal - FY 17-19 Legislative Request		\$0	\$0	\$0

Non-State Funding:

Business/Economic Development/Tourism/River Users		\$44,510	\$60,000	\$104,510
Local Agencies:				
	Metro	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$120,000
	Clackamas County	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$120,000
	Cities	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$120,000
Subtotal - Non-State Funding		\$224,510	\$240,000	\$464,510
REVENUE TOTAL		\$624,510	\$240,000	\$864,510

*Directly appropriated to Oregon Solutions	\$120,000	\$70,000	\$190,000
**Directly contracted thru Clackamas County	\$100,000		\$100,000
Clackamas County managed budget	\$624,510	\$240,000	\$864,510

(Over)/Under Budget \$394

October 2017

Willamette Falls Locks Commission

Proposed cost sharing plan for Willamette River cities' share of work – 2017 and 2018

GOAL = \$60,000 per year

City	Annual Contribution	Population
Portland	\$15,000	632,309
Milwaukie	\$2,500	20,830
Lake Oswego	\$6,000	38,496
Gladstone	\$2,500	11,986
Oregon City*	\$7,000	35,831
West Linn*	\$15,000	26,593
Canby	\$2,500	17,271
Wilsonville*	\$7,000	22,729
Newberg	\$2,500	22,780
	<hr/> \$60,000	

* Cities with seat on Willamette Falls Locks Commission per SB 256