



Office of the City Manager

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October 18, 2018

Clackamas County
2051 Kaen Road
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 Oregon City, we offer this letter in support of Clackamas County's consideration to enact a countywide vehicle registration fee (VRF). A VRF 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 has been discussed at the Metro Mayor's Meetings and at various Clackamas County forums, 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 keep traffic moving reliably and safely throughout our growing region. Additionally, we recognize that a vehicle registration fee is:

- a. efficient to collect and distribute with minimal administration cost,
- b. a reliable revenue and will continue to grow as development occurs,
- c. a user fee correlated to use of roads which we think is fair

We are also supportive of the proposal to create a strategic investments fund made up of an allocation of the County VRF revenue (scenario #2). It is our understanding that the strategic investment fund would be allocated for the improvement of roads that could qualify for jurisdictional transfer to the local agencies which is consistent with many of the Local Agency Memorandum of Understanding for road transfers. The strategic investment fund, if managed correctly, would offer a new tool to promote cross jurisdictional coordination to meet our mutual congestion relief and maintenance objectives.

Signalization – *This would include gap funding (non SDC) to support a wide range of signalization improvements citywide, including optimization/phasing, new controllers, corridor coordination and timing, interconnection, surveillance and various forms of speed and safety warning devices.*

Intersection Operational Enhancements - *This would include gap funding for intersections through capacity improvements at priority intersections including intersection examples such as Beavercreek Rd and Hwy 213, and Central Point Rd/Warner Parrott Rd.*

Street Expansions – *This would include widening and efficiency measures to safely and efficiently accommodate travel needs for all modes of travel.*

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 deteriorating roads and ever-increasing commute times.

We support Clackamas County making a bold decision today to address local transportation funding needs through passage of a VRF by ordinance.

Sincerely,

Anthony J. Konkol, III
City Manager