

East Multnomah County Transportation Committee

City of Fairview City of Gresham City of Troutdale City of Wood Village Multnomah County

July 16, 2009

Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation
Attn: Carlotta Collette, Chair
Metro
600 NE Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97232-2739

SUBJECT: Funding the I-84 to US 26 Corridor Refinement Plan through East Multnomah County

For many years now, there has been a significant and growing need for additional transportation capacity in East Multnomah County for commercial traffic between I-84 and US 26. As populations have shifted east, the roads of the region are moving far more personal vehicles and commercial traffic than ever intended.

Economic development in the east metro area is a shared interest of Multnomah County; the Cities of Fairview, Gresham, Troutdale, and Wood Village (Cities); Clackamas County and its incorporated cities. Improved north-south transportation connection between I-84 and US 26 is essential for fostering the east regional industrial areas, including the Columbia-Cascade River District, Springwater, and Damascus. The east metro cities acknowledge the need to agree on how to solve this issue.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the Cities dated April 26, 2007 and approved via resolution by the city of Damascus noted the I-84 to US 26 corridor as the primary transportation concern of the area. The four possible alternatives mentioned in the MOU are; 181 Avenue, Fairview Parkway, 242nd Avenue and 257th Avenue. This corridor has been identified as a regional need as recently as the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan and has been included by JPACT on the list of the five most crucial regional corridors for refinement planning. The MOU also acknowledged improvements are needed to the east-west I-205 to US 26 corridor as its second priority. The Cities and neighboring jurisdictions are relying on the results of an independent and unbiased comprehensive study of the I-84 to US 26 Corridor to effectively plan their transportation and economic futures.

The East Multnomah County Transportation Committee (EMCTC) urges you to take the necessary steps to make the I-84 to US 26 Corridor Refinement Plan the highest priority for a corridor study in the 2009 Regional Transportation Plan in compliance with the

2007 MOU dated April 26, 2007. The Cities and Multnomah County will work cooperatively with Metro, the Oregon Department of Transportation, and other regional partners to conduct a comprehensive study in accordance with the MOU, to reach consensus on a preferred corridor alternative(s), and jointly advocate for its implementation.

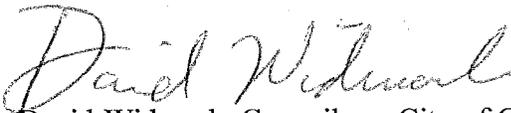
Sincerely,



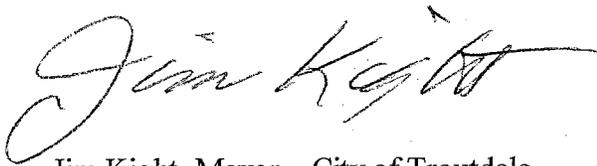
Commissioner Diane McKeel, EMCTC Chair, Multnomah County Commissioner, Dist 4



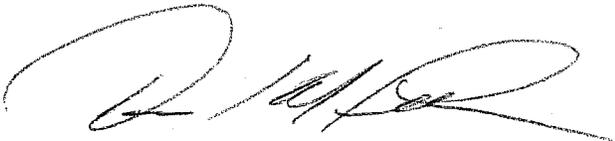
Larry Cooper, Councilor – City of Fairview



David Widmark, Councilor – City of Gresham



Jim Kight, Mayor – City of Troutdale



Dave Fuller, Mayor City of Wood Village

Enc: List of supporters for funding an I84 to US 26 corridor study.