



# MEMORANDUM

## Office of the Mayor and Council

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MAY 10 2004

MARIA ROJO de STEFFEY  
COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1

Date: May 5, 2004

To: Chair Diane Linn  
Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffy ✓

From: Mayor Chuck Becker *CJB*

Subject: Multnomah County Transportation Study

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The Gresham City Council has participated in a policy development workshop and reviewed the Roads Study initiated by Multnomah County and conducted by Vic Rhodes Consulting. We are in general agreement regarding the concepts and recommendations that have been presented and would strongly encourage the Board to move forward soon with implementation.

The recommended option appears to address the majority of the issues and concerns raised by the stakeholders. More specifically, those critical transportation issues regarding maintenance, accountability, fiscal impacts, and facilitation of the regional decision-making process are addressed.

We believe an important next step in this process is to commit to the concept of local ownership and transfer of roads as recommended in the study report. To that end, the City of Gresham requests the County Commission direct their consultant to draft a Resolution that would state the intent of the County to transfer roads to those jurisdictions who wish to exercise this option and begin Phase II. With agreement on the transfer concepts, we can then work cooperatively together on the Phase II study that will work through the details of transfer responsibilities. Gresham, its businesses and

Charles J. Becker, Mayor

Jack Horner - Position 1  
Dave Shields - Position 4

Jacquenette McIntire - Position 2  
Larry Haverkamp - Position 5

Jack Hanna - Position 3  
Shane Bemis - Position 6



# MEMORANDUM

## Office of the Mayor and Council

May 5, 2004 - Page two

Chair Diane Linn - Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffy

Transportation Study - cont.

citizens, are committed to the concept of a local ownership option, and will work with the County and other East County cities to work through the details necessary to develop and execute a transfer resolution.

We appreciate the thoroughness of the consultant study and the fact that it brought all the East County cities into the decision-making process. Please advise me at your earliest convenience if this is an agreeable approach, and propose a timeline for moving forward.

CJB:dr

cc: Gresham City Council

Mike Weatherby - Mayor of Fairview

Paul Thalhofer - Mayor of Troutdale

David M. Fuller - Mayor of Wood Village

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Charles J. Becker, Mayor

Jack Horner - Position 1  
Dave Shields - Position 4

Jacquenette McIntire - Position 2  
Larry Haverkamp - Position 5

Jack Hanna - Position 3  
Shane Bemis - Position 6

CITY  
OF

FAIRVIEW

1300 NE VILLAGE ST., P.O. BOX 337  
FAIRVIEW, OREGON 97024  
(503) 665-7929 FAX 666-0888

May 17, 2004

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MAY 19 2004

MARIA ROJO de STEFFEY  
COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1

Multnomah County Board of Commissioners  
Multnomah Building  
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd.  
Portland, Oregon 97214

Dear Board Members:

The Fairview City Council has reviewed the Multnomah County Roads Study and listened with active interest to the presentations made by Commissioner Rojo de Steffey and your consultant Mr. Rhodes. After considerable deliberation and some debate the Council agrees that the County should proceed to the next level of the study.

However, our support is subject to a number of caveats that we consider important to any further activity on this issue:

1. All parties must agree to the final result or the result is binding on none;
2. The individual perspectives and needs of each city must be considered and evaluated;
3. The oversight committee must be empowered by the Board to conduct the analysis and not be over-ruled by any individual entity, even if that entity is the Board;
4. If a city does decide to assume control of the roads within its jurisdiction then resources sufficient to provide the necessary oversight and administration must be transferred to the city along with the roadway;
5. Current maintenance agreements and responsibilities should remain untouched by the study.

We look forward to continued progress with the County as this issue is further reviewed and an appropriate outcome determined.

Sincerely,



Mike Weatherby  
Mayor



improvement program spanning the jurisdictions. The four (County) positions currently engaged in transportation planning activities should be assigned to staff the MCTC under the guidance of a Director of Transportation Planning. The Director would be a County employee chosen by and accountable to the MCTC. Membership of the MCTC would be comprised of the Mayors of each of the East County Cities and the Multnomah County JPACT (Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation) representative, currently yourself.

The City of Troutdale does not support the above recommendations. We believe, as stated in the Intergovernmental Agreements adopted between each East County City (except Wood Village) and Multnomah County in early 1995, that "The road system is based upon functional class of roads in which generally, the County will be responsible for arterials and collectors that support regional travel, and ... the cities will be responsible for local transportation and access to the regional system". We know of nothing that has occurred which should alter that fundamental arrangement. Neither do we know of anything which should reverse the will of the people as expressed by their rejection of Ballot Measure 26-1 in November, 1993.

We continue to have grave reservations about these recommendations or any similar changes which could diminish the County's ability to plan for, construct, and maintain its roads within our City and to provide reimbursable support to our transportation system. Once again, we urge you to adhere to the maxim "if it ain't broke, don't fix it".

Sincerely,

CITY OF TROUTDALE

  
Paul A. Thalhoffer  
Mayor

CAPWJUN04

# CITY OF TROUTDALE

"Gateway to the Columbia River Gorge"

JUNE 10, 2004

RECEIVED

JUN 14 2004

MARIA ROJO DE STEFFEY  
COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1



## Mayor

Paul Thalhofer

## City Council

Chris Gorsek

David Ripma

Norm Thomas

Jim Kight

Barbara Kyle

Doug Daoust

Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey  
Multnomah Building, Room 600  
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd  
Portland, OR 97214

## RE: LEADERSHIP IN TRANSPORTATION

Dear Commissioner Rojo de Steffey:

At our regular meeting on June 8th, the Troutdale City Council discussed the County Roads Study prepared by Rhodes Consulting, Inc. Our comments regarding that study were conveyed to you via my letter of June 9th.

During our discussion regarding the study, members of the Council also expressed dismay at the apparent lack of leadership in transportation matters displayed by the County Commissioners. This leadership void manifests itself in the number of County transportation employees who have sought employment elsewhere, the key transportation positions (including Transportation Director) left vacant for extremely long periods of time, confusion as to who is in charge, and the organizational distance between the Land Use and Transportation Division and its titular head, the Department of Business and Community Services. We cannot help but wonder if a Department with over twenty divisions creates an unmanageable span of control.

We believe that the Department of Business and Community Services Director Cecilia Johnson and her Deputy Director, Robert Maestre, are trying to do a good job with very little help or guidance from the Commissioners. We believe the Multnomah County Transportation Division has well-qualified and capable employees who need both a well organized structure in which to work and support from the Commissioners.

We urge you to take swift and decisive action to restore Multnomah County's Transportation Division to the premier organization it once was.

Sincerely,

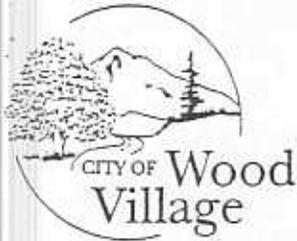
CITY OF TROUTDALE

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul A. Thalhofer".

Paul A. Thalhofer  
Mayor

c: Cecilia Johnson, Director of Business and Community Services

CAPWJUN04



*Mayor*  
David M. Fuller

*Council President*  
Peggy Jo Minter

*Councilors*  
Beverly A. Stone

Kenneth B. Fletcher  
Clay Moorhead

June 11, 2004

RECEIVED

JUN 23 2004

MARIA ROJO de STEFFEY  
COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1

Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey, District 1  
Multnomah Building, Room 600  
Portland OR 97236

RE: Multnomah County Road Jurisdiction Study

Dear Commissioner:

The Wood Village City Council is willing to consider further details for Option E New Governance Structure as presented in the Multnomah County Road Jurisdiction Study prepared by Rhodes Consulting Inc, in January 2004, as long as the following basic elements are adhered to:

- An Intergovernmental Agreement be formulated and adopted that the County would be responsible for arterials and collectors that support regional travel and the City would be responsible for local transportation and access to the regional system;
- The governance structure is an intergovernmental entity which each jurisdiction must adopt by ordinance and cannot be modified without approval from all 5 jurisdictions;
- Provision of a comprehensive listing of the benefits to be derived by the City;
- Policies and Procedures for the new governance structure are adopted by all 5 jurisdictions prior to forming a new governance structure;
- The County shall continue to provide, as a minimum, the same level of maintenance services on all roads currently under your jurisdiction, including those that may be transferred to a City;
- The County will only transfer roads responsibility at the request of the municipality;

- No funds are transferred from the County to a City assuming jurisdiction of any roads from the County;
- County to continue to maintain its roads within the Cities regardless of jurisdictional transfer.
- The County shall pay for all employees necessary to staff the new Multnomah County Transportation Commission, including the Executive Director who would be selected by, and directly accountable to, the Commission. The Executive Director will serve as the JPACT representative for the cities of East Multnomah County and vote in accordance with the Commission's priorities;
- Membership of the new Transportation Commission shall be comprised of the Mayors of each of the east county Cities and the County JPACT representative with each member having one vote;
- The County Board will take no action contrary to an agreement of the majority membership of the new Transportation Commission;
- The functional classification of all roads which traverse more than one jurisdiction must be established by the new Transportation Commission;
- The County Surveyor, the water quality program and the Willamette Bridges to stay in County jurisdiction;
- Ensure that the County will continue to receive the funding necessary to maintain its current roads regardless of any transfer of roads;
- Uniform street standards are adopted by all 5 jurisdictions prior to forming a new governance structure;
- The transfer of road jurisdiction from the County to a City is null and void (reversionary clause) if a City fails to adhere to all aspects of the agreement established by all of the East County Cities and the County.

The City strongly recommends that finality to the road jurisdiction issue be brought to and end, and that the County not allow this matter to be an interim measure on an ultimate agenda to enhance one jurisdiction at the expense of another.

It is extremely important that the Policies and Procedures development keep in mind that three jurisdictions involved do not have the staffing levels necessary to conduct

endless negotiations over months/years, and that "NO" wear you down approach is used.

We thank you for the opportunity to be involved in this study and we look forward to a successful resolution of this long-standing issue.

Sincerely,



David M. Fuller, Mayor  
On behalf of the Wood Village City Council

C: Chair Diane Linn  
Commissioner Lonnie Roberts  
Commissioner Lisa Naito  
Commissioner Serena Cruz

Mayor Becker, City of Gresham  
Mayor Thalhofer, City of Troutdale  
Mayor Weatherby, City of Fairview



# CITY OF TROUTDALE

"Gateway to the Columbia River Gorge"

JULY 27, 2004

RECEIVED

JUL 29 2004

MARIA ROJO de STEFFEY  
COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1

Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey  
Multnomah Building, Room 600  
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd  
Portland, OR 97214

**RE: COUNTY ROAD ISSUE**

Dear Commissioner:

I have received your letter dated July 14th and am disappointed that you are going forward on the transfer of County roads in spite of Troutdale's opposition and the expressed desire of Fairview and Wood Village that any such effort be by unanimous consent (which, with Troutdale's opposition, is not possible).

I am concerned that, if the County proceeds with support from only Gresham, you will strengthen the opinion of many who felt the decision was made before the study was conducted and once again you have thwarted the will of the people as expressed in the 1993 election.

In addition to the above, a significant concern is that once Gresham gains control of Multnomah County arterials within its jurisdiction, Gresham will then ultimately want the road maintenance money along with such a transfer. There is nothing that we have seen which would prevent Gresham from making that request and Multnomah County from honoring such a request. If that scenario occurs it would mean the end of the Multnomah County road department as we know it and the diminution of road service to the three smaller cities and unincorporated Multnomah County.

I will be interested to see the draft resolution and will certainly appear before the Board of County Commissioners on August 12th to oppose it.

Sincerely,

CITY OF TROUTDALE

  
Paul A. Thalhofer  
Mayor

c: Chair Linn  
Commissioner Cruz  
Commissioner Naito  
Commissioner Roberts  
Mayor Weatherby, Fairview  
Mayor Fuller, Wood Village  
Mayor Becker, Gresham

C:PWJUL04

104 SE Kibling Avenue • Troutdale, Oregon 97060-2099 • (503) 665-5175

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Mayor  
David M. Fuller

Council President  
Peggy Jo Minter

Councilors  
Beverly A. Stone    Kenneth B. Fletcher    Clay Moorhead

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August 3, 2004

Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey, District 1  
Multnomah County  
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Room 600  
Portland, Oregon 97214

RE: Road Jurisdiction Study

Dear Commissioner:

We have reviewed the draft Resolution proposing a financial analysis as phase II of the road jurisdiction study. We cannot support this Resolution as drafted because it does not include a number of points made in our June 11<sup>th</sup> letter on this issue. For example, we do not see in the Resolution the primary criterion that **no funds are to be transferred from the County to a City assuming jurisdiction of any roads from the County**. There also needs to be assurance that the County will continue to receive the funding necessary to maintain its current roads regardless of any transfer of roads. This includes considering the potential for the City of Gresham, upon receiving ownership of current County roads within their boundaries, to qualify for additional transportation funding directly that may reduce the amount of funds available for the remainder of the regional area.

Also, please note that the City of Wood Village will only support a governance structure which is an intergovernmental entity adopted by each of the 5 jurisdictions by ordinance and can only be modified if all 5 jurisdictions agree to any changes.

Thank you for allowing us to review and comment on the draft Resolution in advance. We certainly appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

David M. Fuller  
Mayor