

Transportation Funding Task Force
April 15 - Meeting 22
Written Testimony

Sent: 4/8/2020
From: Ronald Swaren
Subject: Construction innovation should be a factor

I have brought this up while we were able to personally come to meetings. Perhaps I should elaborate.

I know most public discussion of public investments gets down to planning decisions and also existing or hoped-for policy. I will suggest there is an important third element that should influence decision-making: and that is construction technology.

All cities around the world have to deal with more or less the same issues. The ones that don't have as much money to spend, strive to be innovative, and this produces cost effective solutions that other cities should note.

Oregon has sometimes uses innovative technology to financial benefit. One example I often use is that of the Alsea Bay Bridge on US Hwy 101, which has proven to be cost effective in both initial construction and in maintenance.

Oregon is a wood products leader. Engineered and/or treated lumber is making a favorable comeback as a cost effective material. Perhaps we should use wood for lighter duty pedestrian crossings. Certainly prefabricated metal would be cost effective. Concrete construction is costly when it must be built over a roadway or waterway.

I have read of an example where state engineers redesigned interchanges and intersections and saved quite a lot of money. It may be that some of the projects in the final selection for Measure 2020 could be rethought for cost savings. The public might even be able to contribute solutions.

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WASHINGTON COUNTY OREGON

April 8, 2020

Get Moving Task Force
c/o Metro
600 NE Grand Ave
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Task Force Co-chairs and Members;

On behalf of the Washington County Board of Commissioners, I am writing to thank you for your diligent work to help Metro Council shape the Regional Transportation Funding Measure. Your participation in the 22 Task Force meetings over the last year helped create a forum for deliberation on many important choices and priorities for transportation investments in the region.

As the Task Force discussions and public comments indicated, the transportation needs across the region are varied. As you have heard, the three counties each have a diverse mix of housing and employment and different transportation needs. I especially want to thank you for your willingness to listen to the needs in Washington County and the opportunities to address them through the regional funding measure.

I look forward to success in the future as we work together toward the Task Force and Metro Council values identified for the regional transportation funding measure.

Sincerely,

Chair Kathryn Harrington
Washington County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Pam Treece
Washington County Board of Commissioners

Vice Chair Dick Schouten
Washington County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Roy Rogers
Washington County Board of Commissioners

CC: Metro Council

Commissioner Jerry Willey
Washington County Board of Commissioner

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