



City of Molalla – City Council
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February 24, 2021

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
2051 Kaen Road
Oregon City, OR 97045

RE: Support for Clackamas County to Enact a Vehicle Registration Fee (VRF)

Dear County Commissioners,

The City of Molalla strongly opposes reversing the County Vehicle Registration Fee (VRF) enacted in 2019. Such a move may endanger essential transportation projects and further limit diminishing transportation funds in our community. We all created a strong partnership that was formed between Clackamas cities and the County in crafting this program.

The Clackamas County Coordinating Committee (C4) worked together over several years to develop a transportation funding mechanism that could help meet the growing needs of all Clackamas County communities. County staff conducted extensive outreach and research to establish a modest fee that could help us begin to address the growing backlog of deferred maintenance and safety challenges present in our communities. Enacting the VRF during this time of diminishing transportation revenue was an important step towards fulfilling our responsibility to be effective stewards of our transportation system.

In Molalla, the reversal of the VRF would have a significant impact on the City's ability to maintain and repair our roads. We have used the VRF to design and deliver Capital Improvements throughout our community. Revenues from State gas tax will be significantly reduced in 2020 and 2021 and removing a key funding source at this juncture would have far-ranging impacts and cause many cities to delay or cancel scheduled improvements. As the County and cities alike are working to reduce injuries and fatalities on our roadways to zero by 2035, it is imperative that the VRF is available as a resource to help us all work toward that vision.

We understand the Board intends to discuss this topic at two policy meetings, the first of which will be on March 2, 2021. We urge you to consider the devastating consequences of reversal of the VRF before proceeding further. Instability in funding will result in uncertainty for capital project and maintenance delivery and potentially drive-up costs. Please consider the work of both your predecessors and your partners across the County and allow this important program to continue.

Sincerely,



Scott Keyser, Mayor



Leota Childress, Council President




Terry Shankle, Councilor



Jody Newland, Councilor



Elizabeth Klein, Councilor



Crystal Robles, Councilor



Steven Deller, Councilor