



Office of Mayor Ted Wheeler  
City of Portland

January 12, 2018

Susan Bladholm  
The Frog Ferry  
4430 SW Selling Court  
Portland, OR 97221

Dear Ms. Bladholm,

Thank you for taking the initiative to explore the feasibility of launching a water ferry service, connecting the City of Portland to the City of Vancouver and/or the City of Lake Oswego, among other potential stops. Given that Portland has experienced exponential growth in the past decade, we have a traffic congestion issue that needs to be addressed; a river taxi service could help mitigate the issue.

River cities are unique in that they typically have a more trade-based economy and the waterway helps define the community and provides a sense of place. As a community that was founded on the banks of the Willamette and Columbia rivers by Native Peoples that used water transit as a primary mode of travel, we owe it to ourselves to explore the possibility of connecting people by our natural river highway.

Your concept plan for the Frog Ferry outlines the key goals, challenges, benefits, and approach principles. I support your next step to create a two-year feasibility study, which, among other deliverables outlined in your Feasibility Plan Outline, would articulate the operational requirements, costs, passenger research, public-private partnership construct, and vessel specification. This concept is in line with Portland's goal of creating more multi-modal transit opportunities within the City. I hope to work with you to find ways to provide resources for this endeavor.

Transit remains a critical priority for our region, and I appreciate you working with the Portland Bureau of Transportation, the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, the Office of the Harbormaster, and my office to pursue a Portland-area river taxi service.

Sincerely,

Ted Wheeler  
Mayor of Portland