



May 13, 2019

Dear Transportation Growth Management Program Managers:

Our Lake Oswego constituents are frustrated by congested highways and long commutes and want to see visionary and alternative modes of transit to improve our collective quality of life and economy. We need to approach our transportation issues with systemic improvements that better connect communities to communities and that challenge the status quo. The rapid population growth our region is experiencing calls for courageous and innovative ways to move people, and free up our highways for better freight mobility. Our residents in Lake Oswego sit in dense traffic, on roadways that hug the Willamette River, which provides the capacity for passenger ferry transit.

River cities across the world are increasingly finding that ferries are a fast, reliable, and relaxing commuting option. The river provides an uncongested waterway where people can move at a good speed and safely get to work or home while enjoying Wi-Fi and a good cup of coffee. We need to better connect districts and neighborhoods that are constrained by overwhelmed travel corridors such as our Hwy 43.

Our community strongly supports the goals of equity, diversity and inclusion, and the Foothills Development around the proposed Lake Oswego stop has the potential to be rezoned for medium-income housing and a new mixed-use urban zone. We are currently explore the feasibility of removing a 1965 sewer plant and building a new compact state-of-the-art plant that is removed from the riverfront as a way to spur development and create a destination center. This project is a cornerstone of our Smart City strategy and we anticipate a new bus service will serve the ferry stop and the surrounding area.

A passenger ferry stop in Lake Oswego will improve the quality of life for our Lake Oswego residents and will prove a new transit mode, to get commuters out of their cars and onto a refreshingly clean, green, safe, reliable and relaxing mode of public transit.

Thank you for your consideration,

Scott Lazenby
City Manager