Council President Jamie Dunphy, District 1

(He/Him)

City of Portland

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Re: Letter of Support — Friends of Frog Ferry Willamette River Pilot Project

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for Friends of Frog Ferry and its proposed six-month passenger ferry pilot project connecting the St. Johns/Cathedral Park neighborhood to Southwest Portland's RiverPlace waterfront.

As a District 1 representative and the Portland City Council President, I have spent much of my time in office pushing for safer, more reliable, and more equitable ways for Portlanders to get where they need to go, particularly for neighborhoods that have too often been an afterthought in the region's transportation planning. A pilot project that tests a new mode of transit between St. Johns and downtown speaks directly to that work. It offers a low-risk, time-limited way to learn whether river transit can genuinely expand mobility options for our residents, ease pressure on our bridges and roads, and connect people to jobs, services, and each other.

I have gotten to know Frog Ferry's leadership, including Founder and President Susan Bladholm, and I have been impressed by the rigor and community-centered approach behind this effort, from the years of stakeholder engagement with elected officials, tribal leaders, and neighborhood associations, to the careful attention being paid to first-mile and last-mile connectivity so that a ferry stop actually serves the people who need it. I am glad to know that our State legislative delegation is also championing this work, and I believe a coordinated effort across city, state, and community partners gives this pilot a real chance to succeed.

I encourage funders, agency partners, and fellow public officials to give this proposal serious consideration. A well-designed pilot is exactly the kind of measured, data-driven step Portland needs as we think about the next chapter of our transportation system, one that tests real demand and real operating costs before asking taxpayers or investors to commit to more. Frog Ferry has earned the opportunity to run that test.

Please feel free to contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jamie Dunphy

Portland City Council President