



January 25, 2019

Hal Gard, Division Administrator
ODOT Rail & Public Transit Division
555 13th St NE Salem, OR 97301-4179

RE: Columbia Area Transit Project for I-84 Corridor: Intercity Portland-The Dalles

Dear Mr. Gard:

On behalf of Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD), I wanted to express my support for the Hood River County Transportation District's application for funding through the Oregon Department of Transportation's STIF Discretionary Fund and the Statewide Transit Network Program.

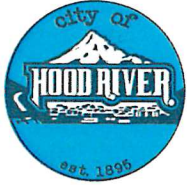
MCEDD operates the LINK Transportation Network which provides public transportation in Wasco County, including the City of The Dalles. Hood River County Transportation District's Columbia Area Transit (CAT) currently provides intercity service between Hood River and The Dalles that connects into our system and is important to the residents of The Dalles to access employment, healthcare, shopping and other resources in Hood River and beyond to Portland. This application would allow CAT to continue to provide this service as well as take on the Columbia Gorge Express I-84 corridor service between Hood River and Portland.

We look forward to working with CAT to best support our riders in connecting into this intercity service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A Hoey", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Amanda Hoey
Executive Director



CITY OF HOOD RIVER

211 2nd Street, Hood River, OR 97031 Phone: 541-386-1488

January 28, 2019

Hal Gard December 4, 2018 Division Administrator
ODOT Rail & Public Transit Division
555 13th St NE Salem, OR 97301-4179
howard.a.gard@odot.state.or.us

RE: Columbia Area Transit Project for I-84 Corridor: Intercity Portland-The Dalles

Dear Mr. Gard:

On behalf of the City of Hood River I wanted to express my support for the Hood River County Transportation District's application for funding through the Oregon Department of Transportation's STIF Discretionary Fund and the Statewide Transit Network Program.

Hood River County Transportation District's Columbia Area Transit is fully prepared and has the capacity to take on the Columbia Gorge Express I-84 corridor service. The added consistency of a local provider coupled with the additional frequency offered through this project is critical to meeting local and regional economic development, tourism, greenhouse gas emission, affordable housing, and healthcare access goals. Furthermore, by supporting this transition, ODOT is investing in the long-term sustainability of the Columbia Gorge Express and the local transit providers of the Gorge.

Over 2 million people visit the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic area every year, creating traffic congestion and critical parking management issues in key tourist and recreational sites along the I-84 corridor and throughout the Gorge. These safety needs must be addressed. In addition, the increasing mobility needs of a growing workforce and of senior and low income populations make this project critical to maintaining the livability of the Gorge and its communities.

We urge ODOT to fully fund this proposal – this is indeed an investment worth making.

Sincerely,

Mayor Paul Blackburn
Hood River City Council



INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL FACILITIES • AIRPORT • INTERSTATE BRIDGE • MARINA

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Hal Gard
Division Administrator
ODOT Rail & Public Transit Division
555 13th St NE Salem, OR 97301-4179
howard.a.gard@odot.state.or.us

January 28, 2019

RE: Columbia Area Transit Project for I-84 Corridor: Intercity Portland-The Dalles

Dear Mr. Gard:

The Port of Hood River, as the owner/operator of the Hood River-White Salmon Interstate bridge, has partnered with Columbia Area Transit, Gorge TransLink, and Mt. Adams Transit Service to improve and promote fixed route public transit in the Gorge for many years. On behalf of the Port, I want to express our support for the Hood River County Transportation District's application for funding through the Oregon Department of Transportation's STIF Discretionary Fund and the Statewide Transit Network Program.

Hood River County Transportation District's Columbia Area Transit is fully prepared and has the capacity to take on the Columbia Gorge Express I-84 corridor service. With the service managed by a local provider able to increase frequency, this project will help to meet the critical need for this service. Continued and expanded service along this route will help to achieve regional economic development, tourism, greenhouse gas emission, affordable housing, and healthcare access goals. Furthermore, by supporting this transition, ODOT would be investing in the long-term sustainability of the Columbia Gorge Express and the local transit providers of the Gorge.

Over 2 million people visit the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic area every year, creating traffic congestion and critical parking management issues in key tourist and recreational sites along the I-84 corridor and throughout the Gorge. These safety needs must be addressed, and reliable and available public transit is a major component of the solution. In addition, the increasing mobility needs of a growing workforce and of senior and low-income populations make this project vital to improving standards of living of the interconnected Gorge communities.

For all of these reasons, the Port strongly supports the Hood River County Transportation District's funding application and urge ODOT's approval of the request.

Respectfully,



Michael McElwee

Executive Director, Port of Hood River

Cc: Port of Hood River Board of Commissioners



118 East Columbia River Way
Bingen, WA 98605 USA

tel: +1.509.493.8600

insitu.com

January 29, 2019

Patricia Fink
Executive Director,
Hood River County Transportation District
P.O. Box 1149
Hood River, Oregon 97031

RE: Columbia Area Transit Project for I-84 Corridor: Intercity Portland-The Dalles

Dear Patty:

I write on behalf of Insitu in support of the Hood River County Transportation District's proposal to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for a grant to fund the expansion of transit services between Hood River and Portland. We strongly support this grant application and its focus on increasing service level and access along the I-84 corridor. As one of the largest employers in the Gorge, frequent and reliable transit service between our worksite and the Portland Metropolitan area is critical to our recruitment and retention efforts. A robust regional public transportation system offers a way for us to tap into the technical talent we need for our work while offering a meaningful incentive for our employees.

We have been pleased with our partnership with Hood River County Transportation District and look forward to continuing our support of transit services in the Gorge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Taylor".

Jennifer Taylor
Director of Global Facilities
mobile: +1.503.708.2004
jenny.taylor@insitu.com

cc: Tamara Kaufman, Insitu
Jill Vacek, Insitu



Aging in the Gorge Alliance / Alianza de la Tercera Edad

January 27, 2019

Hal Gard, Division Administrator
ODOT Rail & Public Transit Division
555 13th St NE Salem, OR 97301-4179
howard.a.gard@odot.state.or.us

RE: Columbia Area Transit Project for I-84 Corridor: Intercity Portland-The Dalles

Dear Mr. Gard:

On behalf of the Aging in the Gorge Alliance, I want to express our support for the Hood River County Transportation District's application for funding through the Oregon Department of Transportation's STIF Discretionary Fund and the Statewide Transit Network Program.

Hood River County Transportation District's Columbia Area Transit is fully prepared and has the capacity to take on the Columbia Gorge Express I-84 corridor service. The added consistency of a local provider coupled with the additional frequency offered through this project is critical to meeting local and regional economic development, tourism, greenhouse gas emission, affordable housing, and healthcare access goals. Furthermore, by supporting this transition, ODOT is investing in the long-term sustainability of the Columbia Gorge Express and the local transit providers of the Gorge.

Over 2 million people visit the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic area every year creating traffic congestion and critical parking management issues in key tourist and recreational sites along the I-84 corridor and throughout the Gorge. These critical safety needs in addition to the mobility needs of a growing workforce and senior and low-income populations make this proposal and these transit enhancements critical to maintaining the livability of the Gorge and its communities.

We urge ODOT to fully fund this proposal – this is indeed an investment worth making.

Sincerely,


Fran Finney
Coordinator, AGA Transportation Committee
Hood River, OR

AGA/ATE is a grassroots group dedicated to fostering the wellbeing of elders, people with disabilities, and their caregivers in our Gorge communities, as well as promoting education and advocacy about elders, people with disabilities, and their caregivers. Contact: aginginthegorgealliance@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

Hal Gard December 4, 2018 Division Administrator
ODOT Rail & Public Transit Division
555 13th St NE Salem, OR 97301-4179
howard.a.gard@odot.state.or.us

RE: Columbia Area Transit Project for I-84 Corridor: Intercity Portland-The Dalles

Dear Mr. Gard:

On behalf of Friends of the Columbia Gorge I wanted to express my support for the Hood River County Transportation District's application for funding through the Oregon Department of Transportation's STIF Discretionary Fund and the Statewide Transit Network Program.

Hood River County Transportation District's Columbia Area Transit is fully prepared and has the capacity to take on the Columbia Gorge Express I-84 corridor service. The added consistency of a local provider coupled with the additional frequency offered through this project is critical to meeting local and regional economic development, tourism, greenhouse gas emission, affordable housing, and healthcare access goals. Furthermore, by supporting this transition, ODOT is investing in the long-term sustainability of the Columbia Gorge Express and the local transit providers of the Gorge.

Over 2 million people visit the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic area every year, creating traffic congestion and critical parking management issues in key tourist and recreational sites along the I-84 corridor and throughout the Gorge. These safety needs must be addressed. In addition, the increasing mobility needs of a growing workforce and of senior and low income populations make this project critical to maintaining the livability of the Gorge and its communities.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge is a 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1980 to push for federal protection of the Columbia River Gorge. In 1986, Friends helped secure the passage of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act to create comprehensive Gorge protection consistent across six counties and two states.

We urge ODOT to fully fund this proposal – this is indeed an investment worth making.



Renee Tkach, Project Manager