



**Washington County Commission
Tuesday, August 2, 2016**

Good morning Chair Duyck and Commissioners, I am Bob Grover, Chair of the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce. I don't need to tell you how fast Washington County is growing and the projections for unprecedented growth over the next 25 years and the stress that will place on our transportation system. We need to take a proactive approach to planning for that anticipated growth by making sure our transportation infrastructure is safe and reliable.

Washington County is facing a substantial road maintenance shortfall. The traditional funding sources, the County gas tax, state gas tax and fees are not sufficient to keep pace with the rising cost of maintaining our roads and bridges. The County has had to delay scheduled maintenance which has resulted in significant decline of road safety.

We are well aware that in 2014 voters rejected Ballot Measure 34-221 which called for a County vehicle registration fee that would have been used to support road maintenance. Now, nearly two years since that decision, and the impact of that delay has caused decreasing road safety. We have seen several instances where infrastructure was not maintained in a timely fashion and created life safety issues that could have been tragic and avoided.

We can no longer delay these types of road and bridge maintenance projects throughout Washington County. Improving the safety of our roads, bridges and culverts would require an estimated \$201 million by 2026. The County does not have maintenance funding mechanism to support that need. We are aware that the State Legislature is working to put together a state-wide transportation funding package for the 2017 Legislative Session and we are extremely hopeful that will happen. However, we are strong in our support that Washington County should position itself to be ready to act in the event those efforts fail. We are asking the County Commission to approve a \$43 vehicle registration fee to be used only to support road maintenance to make Washington County's roads as safe in the future as they were in the past. If the Legislative Session results in a funding package that will deliver funding equivalent to, or greater than, a County \$43 vehicle registration fee, then we ask that the County rescind the fee and let the state package be implemented in its place.

Maintaining roads has a price measured in dollars. Not maintaining roads has a price measured in safety. Time has shown us that we cannot rely on the state to maintain the safety of local roads. We're asking you to make our transportation system safe for all who travel in Washington County by implementing this fee.

Thank you for your consideration.