



August 1, 2016

Washington County Board of Commissioners  
155 North First Avenue, suite 300  
Hillsboro, Oregon 97214

Dear Chair Duyck and Commissioners:

We are all aware of the exponential population growth of Washington County and the unprecedented projected growth over the next 25 years. This growth creates an enormous stress on the reliability and safety of Washington County's transportation infrastructure.

In September of 2013, you received a letter from Westside Economic Alliance (WEA) that stated:

*On September 11, 2013, the members of WEA's Transportation Committee unanimously voiced their support for the Washington County Board of Commissioners adopting a countywide vehicle registration fee of up to \$43 per year to address the growing road maintenance and operation needs of the county and our cities. Regardless of the specific amount, we encourage you to adopt a fee that is sufficient to address both current and deferred maintenance and the long-term road maintenance needs (15-20 years) on county and city roads in Washington County. State legislation allows your Board to take this action, and we strongly encourage you to exercise leadership on behalf of your constituents and enact the fee.*

In the 2014 election, the Ballot Measure 34-221 that proposed a vehicle registration fee failed by a relatively small margin. Now, two years since that decision, the impact of reduced and delayed road maintenance has created a significant decline in the safety of those who travel the Washington County roadways.

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 will cost an estimated \$201 million by 2026. The County does not have a 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.

10220 SW Nimbus Ave.  
Suite K-12  
Tigard, Oregon 97223  
Office 503.968.3100  
Fax 503.624.0641  
www.westsidealliance.org

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WEA is again asking the County Commission to consider a \$43 vehicle registration fee to be used only to support road maintenance to make Washington County's roads reliable and safe. 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.

Westside Economic Alliance is a business advocacy organization representing members from both the public and private sector in Washington and western Clackamas counties. We continue to work together to nurture the business climate and create a vibrant economy.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter. Please let me know if I can assist you in any way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Pamela Treece', written in black ink.

Pamela Treece  
Executive Director