

KURT SCHRADER  
FIFTH DISTRICT, OREGON  
SCHRADER.HOUSE.GOV

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS  
AND TECHNOLOGY

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The 117th Congress  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

June 2, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing with regard to the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) INFRA grant application for the I-205 Improvements Project Phase 2 (OR 43 to Stafford Rd), an important link on the regional interstate system providing a wide variety of economic benefits to Portland Metro region, the State of Oregon, and the nation as a whole.

Congestion on I-205 affects the ability to deliver goods on time, which results in increased costs and uncertainty for businesses. The bottleneck that stretches between I-205 from Stafford Road in West Linn to OR 213 is the last remaining two-lane section of I-205. The constrained two lane section is a significant freight bottleneck. In this segment, drivers experience nearly seven hours of traffic backups every day, significantly impacting regional and state economic activity. The existing two lane section and peak period congestion results in high crash rates. There were 896 crashes in the corridor between 2014 and 2018.

The I-205 Improvements Project will provide key bottleneck relief on the Interstate 205 in Clackamas County. With construction beginning in 2022, this phase of the project will upgrade or replace eight other bridges in the area and add a third travel lane in each direction to match the rest of I-205. The project will increase peak travel speeds and reduce travel times, improve reliability, and reduce the daily hours of congestion through the corridor from 14 hours to 2 hours.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this grant application consistent with all applicable rules and regulations. Should you have any questions, please contact John Serra in my Oregon City office at 503-557-8422 or [john.serra@mail.house.gov](mailto:john.serra@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



KURT SCHRADER  
Member of Congress

KS:js



## OREGON LEGISLATURE

May 31, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We write today to express our strong support for the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the 2022 INFRA and Rural Surface Transportation funding for the Interstate 205 Improvements Project.

This important project will provide key bottleneck relief and seismic upgrades on the interstate in Clackamas County by adding a third through lane and reconstructing bridges to make them earthquake-ready. The Abernethy Bridge will be the first earthquake-ready interstate structure across the Willamette River, making I-205 the passable north-south route through the Portland region after a potential Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake. An INFRA grant will help fund the addition of the third lane along with bridge replacements and seismic upgrades on I-205 between the Abernethy Bridge and Stafford Road.

The I-205 Improvements Project is part of ODOT's Urban Mobility Strategy and an important freight route through the Portland Metropolitan Area. In addition to congestion relief and seismic resiliency, this project will improve safety. The addition of the third lane will reduce the need for merging and provide more space for weaving movements, allowing traffic to flow more freely and reduce the number of crashes. Ultimately, once the project is complete and tolling is implemented, it will significantly decrease delay and congestion for freight and all users through this busy corridor, reducing the daily congestion on I-205 from 14 to 2 hours per day.

Due to funding constraints, the project has been divided into multiple phases. Phase 1A goes to construction this summer. This INFRA grant application requests funds for Phase 2 of the I-205 Improvements project. If the INFRA grant application is successful, the grant funds in combination with already-identified matching funds will fully fund this phase of the Project.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of ODOT's application.

Sincerely,

State Senator Lee Beyer, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Transportation  
Oregon Senate District 6

State Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Transportation  
Oregon House District 29



May 17, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation (USDOT)  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Support for Oregon Department of Transportation's INFRA Grant Application to USDOT for Phase II of the I-205 Improvements Project**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Clackamas County, Oregon, enthusiastically supports the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) INFRA grant application to advance Phase II of the I-205 Improvements Project. This award will support the funding of a regionally supported project that was designated a High Priority Corridor by the U.S. Congress.

The proposed project will remove a crippling freeway bottleneck on a 6-mile stretch of I-205 between Stafford Road and Oregon Highway 43 by adding a through-lane in each direction. Serving both Oregon and Washington residents and businesses, I-205 was built with six lanes for most of its 37-mile length except for this six-mile section in Oregon that includes only four lanes. After nearly 50 years and significant population growth, this stretch of freeway fails to meet travel demand, creating bottleneck congestion throughout the day and needless diversion onto local city roads and surrounding rural infrastructure.

This project will provide enhanced freight mobility that will benefit the entire northwest. I-205 is a major north-south corridor around the Portland area for freight movement. The corridor connects advanced manufacturing, high tech, forestry, agricultural, and distribution/shipping businesses in Clackamas County, Portland, and the Willamette Valley with major import-export facilities such as the Port of Portland, the Portland International Airport, and the Port of Tacoma. Addressing the I-205 bottleneck will support the movement of \$26 million in commodities transported by more than 14,000 freight trucks daily, and benefit those businesses that depend on reliable movement of products to these freight facilities who do their part to strengthen the economy of Oregon and the nation.

We believe this award will provide a number of benefits to both the project itself and surrounding communities. The award will ensure Phase II has the funding that it needs to move to construction. By ensuring this part of the region has the same number of lanes on I-205 as the rest of the region, the project will achieve the originally intended benefit to improve safety by

significantly reducing diversion onto local roads. Additionally, Phase II of the project is necessary to establish appropriate lane and shoulder widths to accommodate consistent and predictable transit routes, where none exists today.

The Clackamas County Board of Commissioners firmly believes Phase II of the I-205 Improvements Project will provide significant benefits to local commuters, Clackamas County's economic development, and West Coast freight mobility. We urge your support for this project, and thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tootie Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tootie Smith, Chair

On behalf of the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners

**Attachment:**

Clackamas County Values on Proposed Transportation Funding Solutions for the Interstate System in the Portland Metropolitan Area

**CLACKAMAS COUNTY VALUES**  
**ON PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION FUNDING SOLUTIONS**  
**FOR THE INTERSTATE SYSTEM IN THE PORTLAND METROPOLITAN AREA**

4.15.2021

Clackamas County supports a functional regional interstate system that prioritizes equity, safety, a vibrant economy, healthy and active communities, climate action, disaster resilience, and the reliable movement of people and goods.

We acknowledge that additional funding is needed to construct these projects and other improvements on the interstate system. Clackamas County has identified the following values that should be reflected in any approved funding solutions.

**To ensure a safe, equitable regional interstate system, funding solutions should...**

- Support timely allocation of funds to construct the projects of statewide significance from HB2017
- Ensure that revenue be reinvested in projects identified by an inclusive public process led by ODOT and coordinated with the local governments
- Elevate engagement with people who have been historically left out of policy discussions, such as low income families and people of color
- Establish viable alternative transportation options that support the functionality of the interstate system, such as an accessible transit system, in areas with inadequate service
- Support necessary improvements to accommodate the region's current and projected growth

**To support a vibrant economy & ensure the reliable movement of people and goods, funding solutions should...**

- Ensure that no tolling or congestion pricing occurs on any one part of the system prior to full system implementation to avoid economic disadvantages or unfair burdens on people (communities, businesses, and the movement of commerce)
- Maintain a transportation system for urban and rural residents that is dependable and predictable to attract new businesses and industry, and provides reliable travel times for commuters and employers
- Enhance opportunities for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) in capital projects and incorporate Construction Career Pathways (C2P2) strategies to promote diversity in skilled construction occupations

**To prioritize disaster resiliency and climate action, funding solutions should...**

- Provide safe, efficient evacuation routes during natural disasters, such as wildfires and earthquakes, by upgrading vulnerable bridges and other transportation infrastructure to be earthquake ready
- Balance transportation improvements with the County's goal to be carbon neutral by 2050 by working to improve regional air quality and mitigate impacts of vehicle pollution on public health and the environment

**To support healthy and active communities, funding solutions should...**

- Mitigate impacts on local facilities caused by diversion/rerouting of trips (all modes)
- Embed safety, health and equity into project designs and program policies (all modes)
- Improve connections and travel options to places of work, school, medical care, and recreation

**This document is not an endorsement or acceptance of any proposal to implement tolling or congestion pricing on I-205, as we believe it will have a disproportionate and detrimental effect on Clackamas residents, businesses, and visitors.**



June 7, 2022

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

As Chair of the Washington County Board of Commissioners, I am expressing our Board's support for the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) INFRA grant application for the I-205 Improvements Project. I-205 is a critically important link in the regional interstate system. It provides a wide variety of economic benefits to Washington County, the Portland Metro region, the states of Oregon and Washington, and the nation as a whole.

The I-205 Improvements Project will provide key bottleneck relief and seismic upgrades by adding a third through lane on I-205 between Stafford Road and OR 213 and reconstructing the Tualatin River bridges to make them earthquake-ready. Adding the third lane will significantly decrease delay and congestion for freight and all users through this busy corridor, reducing the daily congestion on I-205 from 14 to 2 hours per day.

Washington County residents, employees and businesses depend on a functional, multimodal regional transportation system to enhance their economic, social and community wellbeing. The Washington County Board of Commissioners firmly believe this project will provide significant benefits to Washington County, the region, and state. We urge your support of INFRA grant funds to support the I-205 Improvements Project.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Harrington  
Chair, Washington County Board of Commissioners

cc: Kris Strickler, Director, Oregon Department of Transportation



May 18, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Portland Business Alliance (The Alliance) is greater Portland's Chamber of Commerce and represents the largest, most diverse network of businesses in the region. The Alliance advocates for business at all levels of government to support commerce, community health, and the region's overall prosperity. We represent over 2,400 members, from 27 counties, 13 states, and virtually every industry sector. More than 80% of our members are small businesses.

The Alliance supports the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) INFRA grant application for the I-205 Improvements Project Phase 2 (OR 43 to Stafford Rd), an important link on the regional interstate system providing a wide variety of economic benefits to Portland Metro region, the State of Oregon, and the nation as a whole.

Congestion on I-205 affects the ability to deliver goods on time, which results in increased costs and uncertainty for businesses. The bottleneck that stretches between I-205 from Stafford Road in West Linn to OR 213 is the last remaining two-lane section of I-205. The constrained two lane section is a significant freight bottleneck. In this segment, drivers experience nearly seven hours of traffic backups every day, significantly impacting regional and state economic activity. The existing two lane section and peak period congestion results in high crash rates. There were 896 crashes in the corridor between 2014 and 2018.

The I-205 Improvements Project will provide key bottleneck relief and seismic upgrades on the interstate in Clackamas County by adding a third through lane to match the rest of I-205 and reconstructing bridges to make them earthquake-ready. The project will increase peak travel speeds and reduce travel times, improve reliability, and reduce congestion through the corridor.

Phase I of the project will upgrade the Abernethy Bridge, making it the first earthquake-ready interstate structure across the Willamette River. Construction begins in June 2022. Phase 2 of the project will upgrade or replace eight other bridges in the area and add a third travel lane in each direction. With the completion of the I-205 Improvements Project, I-205 will become the passable north-south route through the Portland region after a potential Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and daily hours of congestion will be reduced from 14 to 2.

The Alliance firmly believes this project will provide significant benefits to the region. We urge your support of the I-205 Improvements Project Phase 2.

Sincerely,

**Andrew Hoan** (he/him/his)  
President & CEO





May 20, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Oregon City Business Alliance supports the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) INFRA grant application for the I-205 Improvements Project Phase 2 (OR 43 to Stafford Rd), an important link on the regional interstate system providing a wide variety of economic benefits to Portland Metro region, the State of Oregon, and the nation as a whole.

Congestion on I-205 affects the ability to deliver goods on time, which results in increased costs and uncertainty for businesses. The bottleneck that stretches between I-205 from Stafford Road in West Linn to OR 213 is the last remaining two-lane section of I-205. The constrained two-lane section is a significant freight bottleneck. In this segment, drivers experience nearly seven hours of traffic backups every day, significantly impacting regional and state economic activity. The existing two-lane section and peak period congestion results in high crash rates. There were 896 crashes in the corridor between 2014 and 2018.

The I-205 Improvements Project will provide key bottleneck relief and seismic upgrades on the interstate in Clackamas County by adding a third through lane to match the rest of I-205 and reconstructing bridges to make them earthquake-ready. The project will increase peak travel speeds and reduce travel times, improve reliability, and reduce congestion through the corridor.

Phase I of the project will upgrade the Abernethy Bridge, making it the first earthquake-ready interstate structure across the Willamette River. Construction begins in June 2022. Phase 2 of the project will upgrade or replace eight other bridges in the area and add a third travel lane in each direction. With the completion of the I-205 Improvements Project, I-205 will become the passable north-south route through the Portland region after a potential Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake, and daily hours of congestion will be reduced from 14 to 2.

The Oregon City Business Alliance firmly believes this project will provide significant benefits to the region. We urge your support of the I-205 Improvements Project Phase 2.

Warmest regards,

/s Kent Zeigler  
President, Oregon City Business Alliance

**Oregon City Business Alliance**  
PO Box 1088, Oregon City 97045  
[www.ocBusinessAlliance.com](http://www.ocBusinessAlliance.com)







May 18, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) INFRA grant application to advance Phase II of the Interstate 205 (I-205) Improvement Projects**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The City of Wilsonville and our award-winning public-transit agency South Metro Area Regional Transit (SMART) strongly support the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) INFRA grant application to advance Phase II of the Interstate 205 (I-205) Improvement Projects. The grant of INFRA dollars will diversify the funding of a regionally supported project that was designated a High Priority Corridor in the 2015 FAST Act, prioritized by the Oregon Legislature in 2017, and supported as a federal priority by the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) and Metro Council.

The proposed project will improve a crippling, six-mile-long freeway bottleneck on I-205 between Stafford Road and Oregon Highway 43 by adding a through-lane in each direction that also better accommodates an increase in demand for 'bus-on-shoulder' highway transit-routing options. The project also seismically reinforces a number of I-205 overpass bridges subject to collapse during the projected 9.0 Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake.

I-205 is a key, significant link on the regional interstate system, providing a wide variety of economic benefits to the greater Portland metro area, Oregon and the Pacific Northwest region, and the nation as a whole. Improved mobility on I-205 is essential for the efficient, timely movement of both commuting workers and freight for international trade. Funding this INFRA grant request allows ODOT to advance a vital project that will help to improve both national freight movement and regional mobility along the crucial I-205 corridor.

As a community that hosts over 20,000 jobs—with over half of the positions in family-wage traded-sector industrial occupations—where 9 out of 10 employees commute from elsewhere to work in Wilsonville, a well-functioning I-205 is crucial for employee commuting, timely conduct of commerce and advancing national and regional economic-development goals.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie Fitzgerald".

Julie Fitzgerald, Mayor  
City of Wilsonville

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dwight Brashear".

Dwight Brashear, Director  
South Metro Area Regional Transit (SMART)



The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

May 19, 2022

RE: Support for the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) INFRA Grant Application to USDOT for Phase II of the I-205 Improvements Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the City of Gladstone, we respectfully submit support for the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) INFRA grant application to advance Phase II of the Interstate 205- (I-205) Improvement Projects, an essential link on the regional interstate system providing a wide variety of economic benefits to Clackamas County, the State of Oregon, and the nation as a whole. The proposed project will remove a disastrous freeway bottleneck on a 6-mile stretch of I-205 between Stafford Road and Oregon Highway 43 by adding a through-lane in each direction.

The Gladstone community sits in the heart of this stretch of highway. This project will achieve the intended initial benefit of improving safety by significantly reducing diversion onto local roads. Traffic diversion is a serious problem. Specifically, we are concerned about Arlington, Dartmouth, Gloucester, Portland Avenue, Exeter, and Oatfield. Diverted traffic contributes to traffic delays, accidents, and accelerated deterioration of small secondary roads not built for such high use. Congestion also delays response times for emergency personnel. We rely on alternative routes to quickly get to and from accidents and emergencies, raising legitimate public concerns.

Many of the same roads and bridges used in the early days of Gladstone are still in place today and continue to serve the multimodal needs of residents and visitors. Phase II of the I-205 Improvement Project will support the movement of the freight trucks transporting commodities that benefit businesses that depend on the reliable movement of products by establishing appropriate lane and shoulder widths for consistent transit routes.

Thank you for partnering with our region to improve the I-205 corridor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tammy Stempel", is written over a horizontal line.

Tammy Stempel, Mayor

**Mayor**  
Honorable Tom Ellis



**City Manager**  
Jason A. Tuck, ICMA-CM

**May 16, 2022**

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

*Re: Support for the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) INFRA Grant Application to USDOT for Phase II of the I-205 Improvements Project*

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The City of Happy Valley is pleased to support ODOT's INFRA proposal to advance Phase II of the I-205 Improvements Project. The award of INFRA dollars will diversify the funding of a regionally supported project that was designated a High Priority Corridor in the 2015 FAST Act, prioritized by the Oregon State Legislature in 2017, and supported as a federal priority by the region's Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT).

I-205 is a major north-south corridor around the Portland area for freight movement, moving goods from regional port facilities and industrial lands to markets around the globe. Phase II of the I-205 Improvements Project will remove a crippling freeway bottleneck on a 6-mile stretch of I-205 between Stafford Road and Oregon Highway 43 by adding a through-lane in each direction.

The impact of the current bottleneck is felt strongly in Happy Valley. Businesses in our regionally significant industrial area (RSIA) rely on I-205 to facilitate freight movement between ports and southern markets. Similarly, a large percentage of our resident workforce must commute outside of the City for employment. Without intervention, conditions on I-205 will result in travel time volatility and increased transportation expenses in our community.

Phase II of the I-205 Improvements Project will support the movement of \$26 million in commodities transported by more than 14,000 freight trucks daily and benefit those businesses that depend on the reliable movement of products. Phase II is also needed to establish appropriate lane and shoulder widths to accommodate consistent and predictable transit routes, where none exists today.

16000 SE Misty Drive, Happy Valley, Oregon 97086-4288  
Telephone: (503) 783-3800 Fax: (503) 658-5174  
[happyvalleyor.gov](http://happyvalleyor.gov)

Thank you for partnering with our region to improve the I-205 corridor. We firmly believe that Phase II of the I-205 Improvements Project will provide significant benefits to local commuters, Clackamas County's economic development, and West Coast freight mobility. We urge your support for this project, and thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Ellis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom Ellis  
Mayor