



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Mr. Bert Hartman, Bridge Program Managing Engineer
Local Agency Bridge Selection Committee
ODOT Bridge Engineering
4040 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, MS4
Salem, OR 97302

Re: Palmer Creek Bridge Rehabilitation (Yamhill County, Oregon)

Dear Mr. Hartman:

This letter is to impress upon you the critical nature of re-opening the Palmer Creek Bridge in Yamhill County, Oregon. We are asking to have the bridge rehabilitated during the 2018-21 federal bridge project funding. If funding could be found we would like to request it as soon as possible.

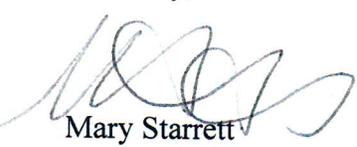
The Palmer Creek Bridge was closed on January 2, 2015 because of the need to shore up pilings underneath the bridge. The closing occurred after a period of load limited use. Since that time, farmers who use it to transport heavy equipment and crops have suffered hardship from the lengthy (up to ten miles roundtrip) detour. That presumes only one daily trip, but for farmers with fields on both sides of the bridge multiple trips only increase the cost and productivity of farming.

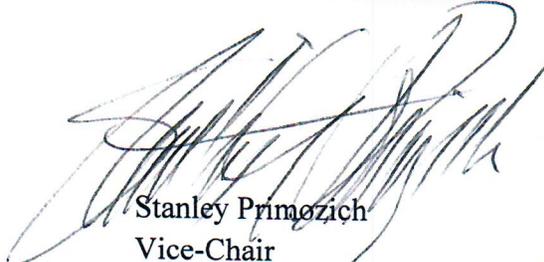
The detour has also created an inconvenience for the residents who feel that a previously safe and expedient connection between Wallace Road and Lafayette Highway has been eliminated.

The most used alternate route between Wallace Road and Lafayette Highway is Stringtown Road. This is a busy, circuitous county road, which now has large, slow-moving farm equipment merging with fast-moving traffic during farming season. It has been of increasing concern to those who travel it. Motorists report that the route is not as wide nor does it have adequate sight distance for safety. There are also frequent complaints about the damage being done to the road because of increased volume of rerouted traffic.

We strongly feel that it is imperative that this bridge be repaired as soon as possible. Yamhill County is not seeking replacement of the bridge, and is committed to contributing its fair share of funds to accomplish the bridge's rehabilitation with the state's assistance.

Sincerely,


Mary Starrett
Chair


Stanley Primozich
Vice-Chair


Allen Springer
Commissioner

B.O. 16-310