



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

CASEY KULLA • RICHARD L. "RICK" OLSON • MARY STARRETT

535 NE Fifth Street • McMinnville, OR 97128-4523
(503) 434-7501 • Fax (503) 434-7553
TTY (800) 735-2900 • www.co.yamhill.or.us

October 8, 2020

Oregon Department of Transportation
Attn: James West, ODOT Region 2, Interim Project Delivery Manager
455 Airport Road SE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Westside Road Truck Route Designation

Dear Mr. West,

Thank you for holding the recent meeting with stakeholders regarding a truck route designation on Westside Road in Yamhill County. The Yamhill County Board of Commissioners would like to express their opposition to the designation of Westside Road as a truck route.

As explained at the September 19th meeting with ODOT, Westside Road has an extensive list of structural difficulties that, if uncorrected, would jeopardize the safety of motorists and commercial truck drivers. It has narrow curves, areas that flood, site-distance-limited curves and hills, four-way stops, and bridges in need of extensive rebuilding (both structural and design). The magnitude of impact of an additional 750 to 1000 truck trips per day will increase daily heavy truck traffic on an already heavily used road. Westside Road is an essential route for commuters, farmers moving farm equipment, and log trucks hauling to West Valley mills. It is also a designated bicycle route in our county's Transportation System Plan that we are actively seeking funding to build the safety features to allow bicycles to safely negotiate this county road.

In reflecting upon the extensive safety work needed, the 10-fold increase in heavy traffic, and the importance of the road for existing county economic activity (from forestry to commuters to farming to cycling), it is our conclusion as the Yamhill County Board of Commissioners that we do not support designating Westside Road as a truck route and as a substitute for State Highway 47 neither of which is safe or cost-effective. We look forward to continuing to work with you on many other safety and efficiency improvements on state highways that traverse our county.

Respectfully,

Casey Kulla
Chair

Mary Starrett
Vice-Chair

Richard L. "Rick" Olson
Commissioner

Accepted by Yamhill County
Board of Commissioners on
10/8/2020 by Board Order
20-356