



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Transportation Commission

Office of the Director, MS 11

355 Capitol St NE

Salem, OR 97301-3871

April 17, 2020

Chair Rukaiyah Adams, Albina Vision Trust
Mayor Ted Wheeler, City of Portland
President Lynn Peterson, Metro
Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, City of Portland
Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson, Multnomah County
Portland Public Schools Board Members

Re: I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project

Dear Chair Adams, Mayor Wheeler, President Peterson, Commissioner Eudaly, Commissioner Vega Pederson, and Portland Public Schools Board Members:

Thank you for your March 27, 2020 letter regarding the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project (Project). On behalf of the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC or Commission), we appreciate your engagement on the Rose Quarter Executive Steering Committee (ESC) to help formulate the path forward for designing and building the Project.

We agree that an outcome-based process that addresses I-5 congestion and traffic safety, is a model of strong state and local partnership, and promotes the successful redevelopment of the Albina community and addresses other local priorities should be pursued. We seek a forward-leaning Project that responds to transportation needs, supports complementary investments to create local economic opportunities, and brings restorative justice and environmental and economic progress to the Albina community.

We acknowledge the historic impact that I-5, and other public and private developments in Albina over many decades, has had and continues to have on the Albina community. We believe that the Project and the work that the Albina Vision Trust has led on the redevelopment of Albina offers the state and the Portland community a unique opportunity to make a range of investments to generate renewed economic vitality in Albina. We support a thoughtful, transparent, and equitable process related to the Project as it proceeds. Moving forward, we see the Project as an opportunity to build and leverage partnerships to help realize greater economic and community benefit that can grow over time. While only one element of a broader

community redevelopment strategy, the Project has the potential to contribute to a better future for the Albina neighborhood.

Consistent with the Rose Quarter actions approved by the OTC last January, we believe the work of the ESC should be guided by a common set of principles and values we develop together. As we define our collective values and principles, the Commission seeks to build trust and foster partnerships that are important for a successful project and future investments in the Albina community. In addition, we believe a letter of understanding and timeline signed by each of our organizations would be beneficial to the work of the ESC. To develop a letter of understanding and timeline, we have asked ODOT's Urban Mobility Office Director, Brendan Finn, and the Rose Quarter Project Director, Megan Channell, to work with your respective staff members to develop a draft letter and timeline for review by the ESC members. Once signed by all of the members of the ESC, the letter and timeline would take effect. We see this letter of understanding, timeline, and the other work of the ESC, as critical to identifying the central elements of a comprehensive plan for redeveloping the Albina area.

Thank you for your focus on this significant opportunity. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Van Brocklin, OTC Chair



Alando Simpson, OTC Vice Chair and ESC Chair

Cc: OTC Commissioner Julie Brown
OTC Commissioner Sharon Smith
OTC Commissioner Martin Callery
Kris Strickler, ODOT Director
Brendan Finn, ODOT Urban Mobility Office Director
Megan Channell, Rose Quarter Project Director