



December 15, 2017

Oregon Transportation Commission
355 Capitol St. NE, MS #11
Salem, OR 97301

PORTLAND FREIGHT COMMITTEE

Subject: Mid-Willamette Valley Intermodal Facility

Dear Commission Members,

On behalf of the Portland Freight Committee, I am writing to express support for evaluating the development of a Mid-Willamette Valley Intermodal Facility.

The Portland Freight Committee applauds the leadership of the State of Oregon on the passage of HB 2017, which will enhance Oregon's transportation system and business environment. However, even with the passage of HB 2017 Oregon businesses and freight operators still face daunting challenges with moving goods efficiently to domestic and international markets due to increased traffic congestion in the Portland metro region.

Portland has historically been a center of trade and commerce and continues to serve as Oregon's primary gateway for domestic and international trade due to its connections to the interstate highway network, marine and rail terminals and international airport. The volume of freight tonnage in the Portland metro region is projected to grow at an annual rate of 2.2 percent with trucks carrying the vast majority of tonnage at 75 percent and rail carrying 15 percent. Additional system capacity is needed to accommodate anticipated population and employment growth in the Portland metro region. Otherwise, congestion will only worsen on the state's highway network, particularly on Interstate 5.

To remain competitive with other regional and international markets, Oregon should explore all potential options for adding freight system capacity to address the Portland metro region's growing traffic congestion and increased system demands. Developing a Mid-Willamette Valley Intermodal Facility may be one of those options if proven economically viable.

The Portland Freight Committee consists of over 30 members representing logistic service providers, shippers, trade associations and various businesses related to multimodal freight activities and has served as an advisory group on freight mobility issues to the city of Portland since 2003. Our mission is to support and enhance Portland's economy by advancing a balanced and well managed multimodal freight network.

We would welcome the opportunity to assist the state in offering our collective expertise in evaluating the submitted plan proposals to help ensure a strong multi-modal freight network that promotes a prosperous economy.

Sincerely,

Pia Welch – Chair