

CENTRAL OREGON AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION COACT

July 14, 2016

Tammy Baney, Chair
Oregon Transportation Commission
Oregon Department of Transportation
Communications Division
355 Capitol Street NE, MS 11
Salem, OR 97301-3871

Dear Chair Baney and Commissioners:

On behalf of the Central Oregon Area Commission on Transportation (COACT), I am writing to express our support of the list of ConnectOregon VI projects as prioritized by the *Final Review Committee*. The process went very well and it effectively recognized the rankings of both the Modal and Region Review Committees. We urge you to approve the list as presented.

We would also like to testify to the state wide significance of project 4A0365, the Redmond Airport Taxiway B Rehabilitation, ranked 37th by the Final Review Committee. This project is right at the *cut line* for funding, and deserves to be funded. Taxiway B connects the primary runway with the US Forest Service area of the airport which includes smoke jumpers, hot shots, the regional training base, a national cache and fire retardant operations. The taxiway pavement index is rated '0', which means C-130 aircraft cannot use it, when it is needed for fire retardant *fill-ups* during fire-fighting operations across the northwest. Another important statewide consideration is the FEMA designation of Redmond Airport as the operations hub for Oregon during the Cascadia event.

We urge you to support the list as prioritized and include Redmond Airport. Thank you for the consideration, and for the opportunity to provide input to ConnectOregon and other transportation investment decisions affecting Central Oregon.

Sincerely,

Alan Unger, COACT Chair
Deschutes County Commissioner

Cc: Commissioner Wayne Fording, Jefferson County
Judge Mike McCabe, Crook County
Lonny Macy, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Bob Bryant, ODOT Region 4
Gary Farnsworth, ODOT Region 4
Scott Turnoy, ODOT ConnectOregon VI Program