



City of Dallas

➤ Office of the Mayor

July 2, 2007

Polk County Board of Commissioners
Polk County Courthouse
850 Main Street
Dallas, OR 97338

On behalf of the Dallas City Council, I want to update you on Dallas' position on the regional transportation project – the Salem River Crossing.

As you know, the two bridges spanning the Willamette River in Salem carry more than 100,000 cars per day. This is a higher volume of traffic than travels through Salem on Interstate 5. Over fifty percent of the working age residents of Dallas use those bridges daily to get to their jobs. The Salem River Crossing would address congestion on the existing bridges, improve traffic circulation, support regional economic development and provide an alternative crossing if the existing bridges are closed during an emergency.

The City of Dallas supports the broad coalition of local governments and interested citizens in Marion and Polk Counties who are currently working to complete the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). While no final decisions have been made, we are very respectful of the EIS process that is paying particular attention to protecting sensitive environmental areas and preserving the livability of neighborhoods.

We support the intent to identify a preferred alternative by mid-2008, a major milestone toward gaining a federal Record of Decision for the project. We also support seeking federal funding for this critical project in the upcoming transportation reauthorization process in mid-2009.

The City of Dallas stands ready to support and assist development and construction of new bridges between our community and Salem in whatever way we can because they play such a critical role in the safety and economic welfare of the citizens of Dallas.

Respectfully,

Jim Fairchild
Mayor

Ken Woods, Jr.
Council President

Brian Dalton
Councilor

Warren Lamb
Councilor

Jackie Lawson
Councilor

Kevin Marshall
Councilor

Wes Scroggin
Councilor

David Shein
Councilor

Rich Slack
Councilor

LaVonne Wilson
Councilor