



POLK COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Commissioners

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Project Bridge Watch
c/o Polk County Board of Commissioners
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850 Main Street
Dallas, OR 97338

Dear Friends:

With the exception of military service and college, I have lived in Polk County my entire life. Prior to serving as your commissioner, I spent many years working in the wood products industry.

I can tell you from my own experience that good mobility from western Oregon across the Willamette River is not just a West Salem commuter issue. It is critical to the competitiveness of our industrial base, because most of our products must move by truck to the Interstate 5 corridor to reach domestic and international markets.

Here in Dallas, we recently lost our largest employer because of poor freeway access to our printed circuit board plant.

As tourism becomes a more important part of our economic base, access to our forests, rivers, lakes, vineyards and casinos will also need to avoid bottlenecks at Salem in order to encourage our guests to come and stay in western Oregon.

And, when it comes to commuters, Highway 22 is filled daily with thousands of folks that aren't from West Salem who work on both sides of the Willamette.

We're glad you've joined us at BridgeWatch. The only way we can make a new bridge happen is by making sure your representatives at every level of government know it's important to you.

Ron Dodge, Commissioner
Polk County Board of Commissioners