



POLK COUNTY

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Administrative Officer

March 21, 2007

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

Dear Citizens:

The Center Street and Marion Street bridges crossing the Willamette River are critical and essential to our region's transportation system and economic growth. Currently, the ever-increasing congestion on these bridges is becoming unmanageable at peak times. As a result, I feel the need to construct an additional bridge is one of the most important tasks facing Marion and Polk Counties.

The traffic congestion and gridlock caused by the lack of bridges serving the area effects our lives in many ways. Some of these effects include the ability to provide adequate safety responses in times of emergencies, the movement of commerce from resource based lands (timber, agriculture, etc.) in Polk County, the development of new industry, and the promotion of tourism.

In my twenty-one (21) years with the County, there has always been a study or a discussion group involving a third bridge between Marion County and Polk County. In my opinion, the studying and the discussing piece should have ended by now and the engineering and constructing of new bridge should be underway.

If you feel the same way about a new bridge, I encourage you to visit the new inter-active website <http://www.bridgewatch.net>, find out the latest information on the project, and share your comments/views. We promise that your responses will be forwarded on to the appropriate local, state, and federal officials to make sure a new bridge becomes a reality.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Greg Hansen, Admin. Officer
Polk County