

CITY OF *Salem*  
AT YOUR SERVICE

MAYOR'S OFFICE

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April 5, 2007

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POLK COUNTY  
BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS

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Commissioner Mike Propes  
Polk County Courthouse  
850 Main Street  
Dallas, OR 97338

Dear Commissioner Mike Propes:

On behalf of the Salem City Council, I want to update you on our community's most important regional transportation project – The Salem River Crossing. This project would provide an additional crossing over the Willamette River.

Currently there are two bridges spanning the Willamette River in Salem carrying more than 100,000 cars per day. This is a higher volume of traffic than travels through Salem on Interstate 5. 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.

A broad coalition of local governments and interested citizens in Marion and Polk Counties is currently working to complete the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). No final decisions have been made and we are very respectful of the EIS process. We are paying particular attention to protecting sensitive environmental areas and preserving the livability of our neighborhoods.

It is our intent to identify a preferred alternative by mid-2008, a major milestone toward gaining a federal Record of Decision for the project. Having a preferred alternative will also put us in a position to seek federal funding for this critical project in the upcoming transportation reauthorization process in mid-2009. We will then want to work closely as a team to help secure this important funding for the Salem River Crossing.

Thank you for the tremendous support you have given to our community. We truly appreciate your dedication to serving our citizens and look forward to working more closely with you as the Salem River Crossing project progresses.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 503-588-6159.

Respectfully yours,

*Janet Taylor*

Janet Taylor  
Mayor