



Open Letter Regarding Strategic Investment in Trails in the 2019 Metro Parks and Nature Bond and Beyond

May 10, 2019

Metro Council
Metro Regional Center
600 NE Grand,
Portland, OR 97217

Cc: Andrew Scott, Jon Blasher, Andy Shaw, Tyler Frisbee

Dear Metro Council,

We celebrate Metro's commitment over the last year to a robust stakeholder engagement effort to ensure a potential 2019 Parks and Nature Bond renewal increases equity in our region while continuing to make crucial investments in clean water, healthy fish and wildlife habitat, and opportunities to connect with nature. We support Metro in continuing to invest in projects that connect our residents to nature *and* in natural area land acquisition both inside and outside the UGB.

Regional investments in trails from both previous Parks and Nature Bond measures and regional transportation funds have provided critical connections to nature, outdoor recreation, and active transportation to the residents of our region. Metro, in partnership with local agencies and community groups, has developed a robust regional trails plan to increase access to green spaces, and to safe, healthy active recreation and transportation for residents across our region.

We believe that building out our regional trails plan is critical to increasing equity and access to nature and to meeting the climate, safety, and health goals of our transportation system.

We wholeheartedly support a 2019 Parks and Nature Bond renewal that:

- Acknowledges the value of both paved, multi-use paths and soft surface trails and recognizes trails as a vital component of regional equity, livability, and conservation strategies
- Dedicates \$40-55 million over the life of the bond to a Regional Trails Acquisition and Development program
- Includes criteria that support trails investments through the Local Share and Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Projects programs that:

- increase access from neighborhoods and transit centers to regional and neighborhood parks and natural areas and to the regional trails system, especially in neighborhoods that currently lack safe, walkable and bikeable connections to these community assets
- serve neighborhoods with soft surface, single track trails, so that driving to a trailhead is not a prerequisite for Metro area residents to enjoy unpaved hiking and riding experiences
- Strategically leverages significant future *transportation* investments in the regional trails system to complete major gaps, not just in our trail network, but in the regional bike and pedestrian system in general (e.g. Oak Grove to Lake Oswego Bridge over the Willamette, French Prairie Bridge over I5, Westside Trail bridges, completion of Council Creek Trail providing off-street alternative to TV Hwy, North Portland Greenway connecting North Portland neighborhoods to Esplanade and central Portland jobs, etc)

The *Potential Regional Trail Investments* map (March 2019) forwarded by Metro staff with bond stakeholder input highlights projects that are all critical to serving the region with a connected regional trail system. Collectively the projects will connect Metro residents to our region’s rivers, sloughs, parks and natural areas, complete many gaps in our regional trail network, further the vision of connecting our regional system to the Gorge and the Coast, and increase equity, safety, and health with trail investments in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color. We also understand that a \$40-55 million Regional Trails Acquisition and Development program in the bond will only fund a small portion of the prioritized investments identified on the map.

Our regional trails system also provides the backbone of our regional bike and pedestrian network. We therefore seek Metro’s commitment to further invest in trails as Metro shapes a future transportation measure. Addressing the major gaps in our regional bike/ped network through major bridge and off-street corridor investments must be part of a comprehensive multi-modal transportation strategy.

Meanwhile, if Metro Council refers the Parks and Nature bond measure to the ballot that we’ve seen taking shape this spring, we look forward to putting our full support behind the measure. We commit to sharing our support for the Metro Parks and Nature Bond renewal with our supporters, colleagues, families, and friends in the Metro area.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Noll, Oregon Trails Coalition

Tim Cook, Clackamas Community College

Alana Kambury, Salmonberry Trail Foundation

Rhett Lawrence, Sierra Club, Oregon Chapter

Jess Thompson, Oregon Walks

Sam Diaz, 1000 Friends of Oregon

Richa Poudyal, The Street Trust

Andrew Jansky, Northwest Trail Alliance

Steve Kruger, Trailkeepers of Oregon

Joe Kurmaskie, Washington County Bicycle

Transportation Coalition (dba WashCo Bikes)

Jim Sjulín, 40 Mile Loop

Francie Royce, npGreenway
Matthew Weintraub, Oregon Mountain Biking
Coalition

Woody Keen, Central Oregon Trail Alliance
Gabriel Amadeus Tiller, Oregon Timber Trail
Alliance

Joshua Durham
Michael McGehee, Concordia neighborhood,
Portland
John Newlin, Ladd's addition, Portland
Kelly Stoecklein, Concordia Neighborhood,
Portland
Daniel Belisle, Buckman neighborhood, Portland
Jim Thayer
Mitch Taylor, Forest Grove
Abby DenUyl, Arbor Lodge neighborhood, Portland
Jim Rapp, Lloyd District, Portland
Scott Wanhala, Portland
Ken Pace, Sellwood, Portland
James Fagan, Bend
Peter Swallen, Lents neighborhood, Portland
Scott Carlile, St. Johns, Portland
Cam Upchurch, Ladd neighborhood, Portland
Todd Young, Garden Home, Washington County
Adam Parsley, Portland
Ryan LaBarre, South Tabor neighborhood, Portland
Dimitrios Papadimitriou, Cully neighborhood,
Portland
Lauralee Svendsgaard, Medford, OR
Spencer Bushnell, Portland
Christopher J. Bernhardt, Montavilla
neighborhood, Portland
Jordan Faulds, Parkrose Heights neighborhood,
Portland
Brett Sherman, Happy Valley Hikers

Ben McKinley, Clackamas County
David Cushman, Markham neighborhood, Portland
Pat Jewett, St Johns neighborhood, Portland
Kurt Brendley, Mt Tabor neighborhood, Portland
Judah Costello, Northeast neighbors, Salem
Alex Morken, Arbor Lodge neighborhood, Portland
Chris Muhs, Woodlawn neighborhood, Portland
Christopher Davis, Rose City neighborhood,
Portland
Andrew Kreps, Marshall Park, Portland
Chris Jones, King neighborhood, Portland
J. Matthew Rutter, Laurelhurst neighborhood,
Portland
Tom Brenneman, Piedmont neighborhood,
Portland
Brian Swan, Brentwood-Darlington neighborhood,
Portland
Peter Pollard,
Nathan Frechen, Woodstock neighborhood,
Portland
Jeremiah Jenkins, Roseway neighborhood, Portland
Brett Boyles, Lake Oswego
John Beaston, Overlook neighborhood, Portland
Erinne Goodell, Concordia Neighborhood, Portland
Nicolas M Wood, Brentwood-Darlington
Neighborhood, Portland
John Donovan
Alex Gay, Richmond neighborhood, Portland
Harry Dalgaard, Creston neighborhood, Portland

Christopher Larsen, Marylhurst Heights, West Linn	Arthur Jones, Hayden Island neighborhood,
Del Scharffenberg, Milwaukie, Clackamas County	Portland
Bruce Parker,	Caroline Livett, Concordia neighborhood, Portland
Kenath Sponsel III, Oatfield neighborhood,	Samuel Swan, Tabor neighborhood, Portland
Milwaukie	Matthew Crampton, Piedmont neighborhood,
Mike Goetz, Sabin neighborhood, Portland	Portland
Ray Atkinson, Oregon City	Peter Walker
Skyler Archibald	Theodore Miller, Sellwood neighborhood, Portland
Brandon Day, Foster-Powell neighborhood,	Tomas Quinones Jr, Cully neighborhood, Portland
Portland	Daniel Carter, Montavilla neighborhood, Portland
Terry Campbell, Arbor Lodge neighborhood,	Bronwyn Richardson, Montavilla neighborhood,
Portland	Portland
Alissa Lesperance, Arbor Lodge neighborhood,	Chad Smoot, St Johns, Portland
Portland	Kate Walker, Arbor Lodge neighborhood, Portland
Andrew Suchocki, Hillsdale neighborhood, Portland	Greg Scott, North Tabor neighborhood, Portland
Brian Hanley, Buckman neighborhood, Portland	Allison Quick, Portland
Robert King, Buckman neighborhood, Portland	Nicole Perry, Linwood neighborhood, Milwaukie
Brian Wielenga	Barbara Adamski, St. Johns
Chad Balthazor, Montavilla neighborhood, Portland	Matthew Faunt, Portland
Brian Little, Irvington neighborhood, Portland	Nancy Nelson, Heart of Hillsboro, Washington
Eric Brainich, Alameda neighborhood, Portland	County
William Laubernds, Hillsdale neighborhood,	
Portland	