

February 20, 2025

Senator Ron Wyden
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Jeff Merkley
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley:

On behalf of the City of Boardman, I am pleased to extend strong support for the City of Boardman's Boardman Main Street and Port of Morrow Interchange Improvement Project. This funding will provide improvements adjacent to Interstate 84 and Exit 165 serving the Port of Morrow Industrial Park and would facilitate the safe flow of local traffic and trucks between Interstate 84 and the Port of Morrow's industrial park. This funding will also provide for refined planning and engineering to support further work at the Port of Morrow Interchange (Exit 165) and the Main Street Interchange (Exit 164).

Located in the City of Boardman (population of 4,725), the Port of Morrow is home to over 8,000 jobs and the industrial park is home to essential food processing companies and energy and data storage facilities. The Exit 164 interchange is the primary entrance to the City of Boardman with the Exit 165 interchange serving as the primary thoroughfare between the interstate and the Port's industrial park. Both interchanges are experiencing failures with Exit 164, particularly the two-lane overpass bridge, not able to support local traffic without impacts to the interchange off-ramps at times resulting in backups that can reach into the interstate travel lanes. At Exit 165 the design is insufficient to safely accommodate the combination of pedestrians, bicycles, local traffic, and freight traffic. As a result of its limitations, the Port has experienced traffic backing up on the freeway, causing serious safety issues for Interstate traffic and non-vehicular travelers through the interchange.

Federal funding will be used to construct improvements, particularly a roundabout with pedestrian and bicycle facilities, benefiting the Exit 165 Port of Morrow Interchange to allow safe accommodation of traffic entering and exiting the Port of Morrow area. The funding will also support refined planning and engineering work leading to further improvements at both Exit 165, the Port of Morrow Interchange, and Exit 164, the City of Boardman Interchange. These redesigned interchanges, when built, will provide safe mobility for pedestrians, bicyclists, and local vehicles, while supporting enhanced access to the food processing, warehousing, distribution, and other businesses in the Port's industrial park and to the City of Boardman.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I respectfully ask for your support of this proposal and the significant benefits it would provide the region.

Sincerely,

Paul Keefer
Mayor