



POLICY ITEMS

Robust Transportation Reauthorization Bill

Congress should develop a comprehensive transportation reauthorization bill that would create jobs by providing robust funding for bridges, highways, mass transit and other local infrastructure needs. Within the reauthorization bill, Tigard strongly supports inclusion of:

▶ **The bipartisan Innovations in Surface Transportation Act**, which creates a grant program that would put transportation funds in the hands of local communities. The Innovation grants would be awarded on merit by a panel with representatives from state and local jurisdictions, ensuring that funds go to well-conceived projects with the most local support. Needed projects in Tigard with local support include:

▶ **Hall Boulevard – Burnham Street to Durham Road**

This project will add turn lanes at key intersections, illuminate, add transit stop amenities and fill in the sidewalk gap along Hall Boulevard from downtown Tigard to Durham Road. Sidewalks along Hall Boulevard are one of the top priorities identified by citizens to make the city more walkable.

REQUEST AMOUNT: \$7,100,000

▶ **Highway 217 Interchange with 72nd Avenue**

Evaluate and develop a conceptual design to address transportation issues in the interchange of Highway 217 with 72nd Avenue. This project will focus on planning, not construction, for ramp terminals, cross street and streets intersecting 72nd Avenue.

REQUEST AMOUNT: \$1,000,000

▶ **Safe Routes to Schools.** A key aspect of the city's recently adopted vision is to ensure that children have safe routes to walk to school. In July 2012, Congress passed the transportation law MAP-21. As part of that law, they folded the Safe Routes to School program into a new program called Transportation Alternatives and cut funding by approximately 30 percent. When Congress considers the next transportation bill in 2015, the city supports increased funding for Safe Routes to School and a sustained federal commitment to these critical safety projects.

▶ **The Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Act** which would require the U.S. Department of Transportation to set a performance measure to reduce the number of bicyclists and pedestrians killed on our roads.

FY 2016 Program Levels

Maintain adequate funding levels for TIGER, CDBG, HOME, BYRNE, EDA, and COPS funding.

▶ **COPS Hiring and Technology Funding**

Tigard strongly supports additional funding for the COPS Hiring and Technology programs. The city plans to apply for a COPS position in 2015 to advance public safety through community policing. There are very few funding options at the federal level to help police departments purchase equipment, despite the fact that federal mandates continue to require costly upgrades. Federal funds for equipment upgrades are important, especially for police departments with cash strapped budgets.

Protect Municipal Bonds

Protect tax exempt municipal bonds from being eliminated or limited. Since federal income tax was instituted in 1913, interest earned from municipal bonds issued by state and local governments have been exempt from federal taxation. These bonds are the primary financing mechanism for state and local infrastructure projects, with three-quarters of the infrastructure projects in the U.S. built by state and local governments, and with over \$3.7 trillion in outstanding tax-exempt bonds, issued by 30,000 separate government units.

Local governments save an average of 25 to 30 percent on interest costs with tax-exempt municipal bonds as compared to taxable bonds because investors are willing to accept lower interest on tax-exempt bonds in conjunction with the tax benefit. If the federal income tax exemption is eliminated or limited, states and localities will pay more to finance projects, leading to less infrastructure investment, fewer jobs, and greater burdens on citizens.

Secure a Tigard ZIP Code

State Representative Margaret Doherty has introduced a measure urging the United States Postmaster General to recognize ZIP codes 97223 and 97224 as Tigard ZIP codes that are separate and distinct from Portland ZIP codes.

TIGARD, OREGON. Located just eight miles southwest of Portland, Tigard is Oregon's 12th largest city with a population of 50,044. The city is largely residential and offers a mix of industrial, commercial and retail space which results in a daytime population around 100,000. Because of the demand placed on its transportation, water and public safety resources, Tigard faces big-city infrastructure issues.

Tigard is ideally located to meet regional employment demand. The region's workforce lives here. What's lacking, however, is infrastructure that supports business expansion here.

Late in 2014, the City Council adopted a strategic plan to become *"the most walkable community in the Pacific Northwest where people of all ages and abilities enjoy healthy and interconnected lives."* This 20-year strategic vision, along with four strategic goals, will provide guidance and direction for the city's priorities over the long term by leveraging and building on our strengths to grow Tigard as a thriving community.

Tigard continues to work with its regional partners toward creative solutions that address infrastructure and service delivery challenges. We are committed to responsible stewardship of public funds and to making sound fiscal decisions that will guide us to a sustainable future.

HUNZIKER INDUSTRIAL CORE



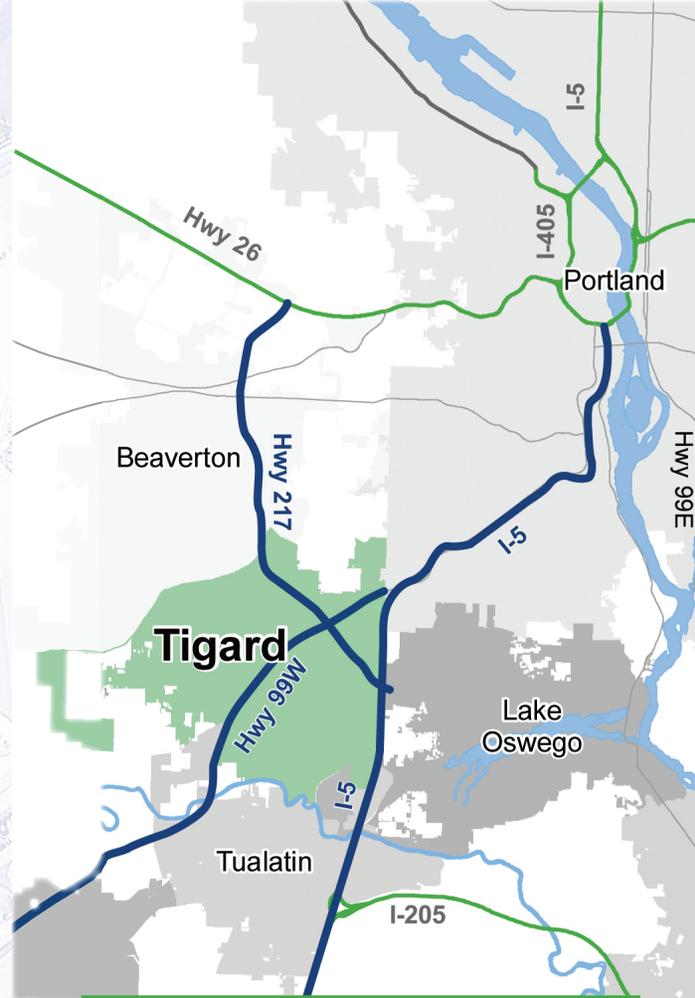
Tigard's Hunziker Industrial Core project represents a unique and exciting opportunity to redevelop industrial land in an urban setting. When complete, the project will foster significant economic growth and provide long-term high-skill, high-wage job opportunities for the region.

The core includes more than 138 acres of industrial-zoned property located three-quarters of a mile from Interstate 5, one-half mile from Highway 217 and immediately accessible by existing rail. In this area, 96 acres are developed but underutilized. Forty-two acres are undeveloped but limited in their development potential. The area exemplifies the challenge inner-ring suburban cities face when trying to support business growth.

A private developer is working on a 225,000 square foot development on 18 acres; an estimated \$22 million private investment and home to 115–300 new jobs. New infrastructure here will support new investment and redevelopment on the adjacent 120 acres of industrial property. This sets the stage for another 300–500 jobs and \$35 million in private investment.

Through a state grant, and in partnership with local property owners, Tigard completed a Public Infrastructure Finance Plan in 2014. The total cost of public infrastructure (roads, water, wastewater and stormwater) to support private sector development in the Hunziker Industrial Core is estimated at about \$10.5 million. The city is seeking \$1.5 million from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration program to fund some of the public infrastructure improvements.

REQUEST AMOUNT: \$1,500,000



For more information...

More information about these projects and Tigard's vision for the future can be found on our website at www.tigard-or.gov. Please don't hesitate to contact us for additional information.

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City of Tigard, Oregon

2015

Federal Legislative Agenda

