

“Transit is vital in the fight to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and we appreciate the support of Oregon senators Merkley and Wyden as together we look toward a cleaner air future for the Portland metro region,” **said TriMet General Manager Sam Desue Jr.** “TriMet’s goal of transitioning to a zero-emissions bus fleet by 2040 is not a milestone we can achieve alone. Our Columbia Operations Facility is the centerpiece of our transition efforts, and it takes leaders such as these senators, with their foresight, to help us move closer to that goal.”

"We commend Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for their unwavering support of the affordable workforce housing project in the City of North Bend, a community in the midst of a severe housing crisis. The scarcity of rental housing has reached unprecedented levels, pushing prices to a premium and leaving many individuals and families without viable options. In recognizing this dire situation, Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden have demonstrated their unwavering commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community. By championing this vital initiative, they are taking a crucial step towards alleviating the burden faced by hardworking individuals and families who are struggling to secure affordable housing. We deeply appreciate their leadership and unwavering dedication to ensuring that North Bend residents have access to safe, affordable rental housing. Their tireless advocacy for sustainable and accessible housing solutions is a testament to their understanding of the urgent need for immediate action. We are grateful for their partnership and stand united with them in their pursuit of a stronger, more inclusive community where every individual has the opportunity to find a place they can call home," **said North Bend Mayor Jessica M. Engelke.**

“We are pleased to see this project gain momentum on the federal level,” **said Mike Fox, co-chair of the Hood River-White Salmon Bridge Authority.** “Building a bridge is a lot like putting a jigsaw puzzle together, and this earmark gives us two more pieces by helping us obtain the necessary land and address environmental mitigation. A big thank you to our federal representatives for pushing this project forward.”

“This project is vital to the health of our communities, so we’re thrilled to see this funding from the federal government,” **said Jacob Anderson, co-chair of the Hood River-White Salmon Bridge Authority.** “We want to thank Sen. Merkley, Sen. Wyden and the congressional delegation from Washington and Oregon for prioritizing this project, and we look forward to working with them to secure more funding in the future.”

"This historic investment will put us closer to transforming a former marine terminal into a site for innovation in the housing construction and mass timber industries -- which will boost economic development throughout Oregon, with new jobs in mass timber and housing, a stronger workforce, and viable solutions to address the state's housing shortage. Coupled with additional state funding and the EDA *Build Back Better* grant we received as part of the Oregon Mass Timber Coalition, this demonstrates a deep commitment to strengthening our communities' economic health and well-being," **said Curtis Robinhold, Executive Director, Port of Portland.**

“We are so grateful to Senators Wyden and Merkley for their leadership in combating Portland’s housing crisis. The Barbur Apartments will bring 149 affordable homes to Southwest Portland, with services focusing on immigrant and refugee communities,” **said Commissioner Rubio, Port of Portland.**

“Homeownership is a critical part of housing and financial stability for Oregonians, but is getting farther out of reach for too many. Senators Merkley and Wyden are continuing their championship for housing in our state, with this investment in Community Land Trust homes in Corvallis. DevNW is thrilled to be able to move forward with this project,” **said Emily Reiman, DevNW/Community LendingWorks CEO.**

“Bend-Redmond Habitat is incredibly grateful for the support of Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden. Working class families in Central Oregon are burdened by high rent costs that leave homeownership out of reach. At Habitat we are dedicated to changing lives through affordable homeownership. With these funds we will build 15 new homes to provide deserving families and individuals with a brighter future—with the pride, safety, educational attainment, and wealth building opportunities that go along with homeownership,” **said Scott Nordquist, Director of Grants Management.**

“Pendleton Children’s Center’s board of directors is extremely grateful for this funding, which will jump start our Phase 2 expansion into a second building adjacent to our existing child care and early education center. Our goal is to eventually enroll 150 infants, toddlers and preschoolers, providing high-quality care and helping those families – while also stimulating economic and workforce development – in this region of Eastern Oregon. We thank Senators Wyden and Merkley for their support of this important community resource,” **said Kathryn B. Brown, Secretary-Treasurer, Pendleton Children’s Center.**

“The City of Forest Grove, especially Forest Grove Light & Power, is very thankful for this exciting opportunity. With the revenue that will be generated by the project solely benefitting our struggling customers, this will make a tremendous difference as they try to meet their day-to-day needs. The project will also allow FGL&P to expand our carbon-free power portfolio as we strive to reduce our carbon footprint,” **said Keith Hormann, City of Forest Grove, Light & Power Director.**

“Thank you to Senators Merkley and Wyden for supporting our solar for community assistance program. The City of Forest Grove operates its own municipal utilities and will be able to use all the funding to purchase the solar panels that will then be used to provide community assistance while simultaneously addressing climate goals,” **said Mayor Malynda Wenzl, City of Forest Grove.**

“Ella Curran Food Bank is thrilled and honored to hear this news. For 45-years the all-volunteer food bank has rented storefront space, having to relocate multiple times, as we provide food to those in need. These funds will be used to build a permanent, accessible, welcoming, food bank that will serve Monmouth/Independence and surrounding areas for decades to come, continuing our mission to end food insecurity,” **said Patty Nevue, Coordinator, Volunteer, Ella Curran Food Bank.**

"The City of Sutherlin is very pleased with this news. Senators Merkley and Wyden have long supported initiatives that provide support services to those in great need and that help find homes for the homeless. This hard-to-find financial assistance will help make these services a reality in our city and provide a brighter future for many citizens. Thank you for your dedication to the least of those among us,” **said Pat Lynch, City of Sutherlin Livability Services Director/Library Director.**

“The success of our project makes it possible for us to continue to provide services offered through our two main departments: UPLIFT youth and education services and BRIDGE community health & development. We envision a future where immigrants and refugees in the Portland Metro Area are no longer merely surviving—but thriving. In spite of numerous obstacles, AYCO is determined to be an enduring community hub for immigrants of the Pan-African Diaspora and beyond. We are so proud to have taken this next step in 2023 to strengthen our organization and greater community with a permanent place to call home: our Dream Center on 82nd Avenue in SE Portland. Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden understand our immigrant values and struggle in addition to their contribution to the everlasting economy to our state and country. Thank you,” **said Jamal Dar, Executive Director of African Youth & Community Organization (AYCO).**

“The Oregon Wildlife Foundation appreciates and thanks Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for their support of this important wildlife crossing project on I-5 in southern Oregon. This funding allows us to proceed with design and engineering for the fencing element of the wildlife overpass project that the Southern Oregon Wildlife Crossing Coalition and the Oregon Department of Transportation have been working on,” **said Tim Greseth, Executive Director, Oregon Wildlife Foundation.**

“Travel Information Council is excited with this news! We are grateful to Senators Merkley and Wyden for supporting our partnership with the Oregon Historical Society, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs to tell Oregon Trail history from an indigenous, and place-based perspective that will educate thousands of travelers (at safety rest areas on I-84) annually,” **said Elizabeth Boxall, Executive Director, Travel Information Council.**

“The Hood River White Salmon Bridge Authority would like to recognize both Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden’s efforts in getting a \$4 million THUD bill passed through the US Senate. This money is associated with the building of our new bridge. We have had great support from both Senator’s in obtaining needed funding,” **said Mike Fox, co-chair of the HRWS Bridge Authority.**

"We are grateful for Senator Merkley's support of this community initiated project that will provide an affordable place to call home for over 70 lower income households in Hood River. These federal investments will leverage many other resources to bring this development to fruition," **said Joel Madsen, Executive Director, Mid-Columbia Housing Authority and Columbia Cascade Housing Corporation.**