

Metro FY2024 Community-Initiated Project Quotes:

“The efforts from Senators Merkley and Wyden and their teams on these projects directly supports our overall mission success and readiness for your local Portland Air National Guard and its service members,” **said Brig. Gen. David Unruh, Commander of the Oregon Air National Guard.**

“Senators Merkley and Wyden recognize the addiction crisis that Oregon is facing and understand the need for critical investments in residential treatment facilities. We are grateful for their support of our Center for Addictions Triage and Treatment which will add 86 treatment beds to our system of care along with peer mentorship and outpatient care. These investments are important so that every Washington County resident has the chance to thrive,” **said Kathryn Harrington, Board of Commissioners Chair.**

“Timberline Lodge is an important federal building built under FDR's Works Progress Administration. Today it stands as a National Historic Landmark and one of Oregon's premier visitor attractions. The Friends of Timberline is dedicated to preserving this treasure for future generations. We are grateful to Senator Wyden and to Senator Merkley for providing the leadership necessary to secure the federal funding necessary to address critical maintenance and historic preservation improvements at the Lodge,” **said Jean Craemer, President, Friends of Timberline**

“The Clackamas County 911 Center is a vital resource for our residents. It needs upgrades to meet the needs of our growing staff to match our growing population, as well as weather any disaster the county may face,” **said Clackamas County Commissioner Paul Savas.** “Thank you to Congresswoman Chavez-DeRemer and Senators Merkley and Wyden for helping us secure this federal funding to make critical security upgrades and evacuation readiness improvements so that 911 operations may remain continuous and available for our community.”

“The City of Portland is grateful to Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley for their support of the Office of Community Technology’s Small Business Digital Navigator Training Program, which will provide direct training and support to small businesses and BIPOC entrepreneurs to adapt to new technologies to advance their business in the digital economy,” **said Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability Commissioner Carmen Rubio.** “To be successful and competitive in today’s digital landscape Portland’s small businesses and BIPOC entrepreneurs need to be able to navigate all the digital tools and platforms at their fingertips and this program will be instrumental in providing the necessary training.”

“The Oregon Historical Society and our partners across the state are grateful for Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden’s recognition that increasing access to unique historical materials is a true public benefit. This funding will enable greater public engagement with the rich, diverse history that makes Oregon the place it is today!” **Kerry Tymchuk, Boyle Family Executive Director at OHS said.**

"My administration is working to implement a Body Worn Camera Pilot Program that will be the most progressive in Oregon and among the most progressive in the country," **said Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler.** "We are grateful to Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley for their work to prioritize funding support for this new program. We look forward to the enhanced insight and transparency this program will provide into how Portland Police Bureau officers carry out their duties within our community."

"Oregon Tech is thankful to Senators Merkley and Wyden for their tireless efforts in advocating for investments to help build a talented group of career-ready professionals for Oregon's hightech companies. This investment in the Thin Film Research & Development Center at Oregon Tech will provide our students with a state-of-the-art applied learning environment that prepares them to contribute to and transform the future of Oregon's semiconductor and renewable energy industries," **said Dr. Nagi Naganathan, President, Oregon Institute of Technology (Oregon Tech).**

"Thank you to Senators Merkley, Wyden, and Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici for supporting our Transportation Decarbonization Resource Hub at PSU's Transportation Research and Education Center (TREC). This project builds on 15 years of work engaging faculty and students in applied, community-engaged research on multimodal transportation, and has the potential to become a national model for comprehensive assessment of decarbonization efforts," **said Jennifer Dill, Professor and Director of the Transportation Research and Education Center (TREC) at PSU.**

"The addiction crisis is nation-wide, and in Clackamas County we are taking a proactive approach by engaging with youth for early intervention. Federal funding to extend our pilot program in a local school district will allow the county to collect meaningful data that will inform our work and guide our impact around youth addiction. Thank you to the leadership of Representative Chavez-DeRemer, Senator Wyden, and Senator Merkley for advancing this critical funding," **said Chair Tootie Smith.**

"The City of Estacada is very excited to hear that our funding request was included in the draft bill. As a small city, just over 5,000 residents, the cost of building a new wastewater treatment plant will more than double our resident's monthly sewer bill. This money will help us decrease the costs to our ratepayers. The current plant was built in the 1960s and is in dire need of replacement. The new plant will handle our growth and increase the quality of our effluent discharge into the Clackamas River. Thank you Senators Merkley and Wyden for your efforts to help the small towns in Oregon," **said Elaina Turpin, Assistant City Manager, City of Estacada.**

"The City of Hillsboro is grateful for the financial funding request support to update a nearly 80-year-old, 20-mile-long water transmission line that supplies drinking water to several thousands of customers in unincorporated Washington County. This support will play a key role in our plan to seismically reinforce this important lifeline and ensure our rural customers will continue to have clean, high-quality, dependable water for generations to come. We thank Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for their ongoing support, dedication, and investment in

vital water infrastructure projects across Oregon,” **said Niki Iverson, Water Director/JWC General Manager.**

“Thanks to Senators Merkley and Wyden and Representative Blumenauer, Gresham's wastewater treatment plant upgrade is set for a remarkable transformation. This nearly one million dollars in federal funding not only champions our critical infrastructure but deeply aligns with our vision for clean water, economic prosperity, and job creation. Our city's commitment to environmental stewardship and community resilience is greatly bolstered by this investment, ensuring a sustainable and thriving future for Gresham,” **said Mayor Travis Stovall.**

“Clean Water Services appreciates Senator Wyden, Senator Merkley and Congresswoman Bonamici and their support for the Western Washington County Inflow and Infiltration Rehabilitation project. This funding is critical as it will enable the replacement of aging sanitary infrastructure in the city of Forest Grove, providing important water quality, public health and community benefits for the ratepayers of Forest Grove, Cornelius and Gaston.” **said Diane Taniguchi-Dennis, CEO, Clean Water Services.**

“Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden understand the critical importance of the Willamette River to the health and safety of Oregon and the City of Portland. Harmful Cyanobacteria Blooms (HCB) dangerously threaten the health of people, fish, wildlife and our pets, and will only worsen with climate change. This funding is a very meaningful boost to our work to address the Ross Island Lagoon blooms. We are committed to mitigating this risk, and are grateful to have Senator Merkley, Senator Wyden and their staff as partners,” **said Willie Levenson, Ringleader, Human Access Project.**

“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.”

"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.**

“Thank you to Senators Merkley and Wyden and Representative Chavez-Deremer for championing funds for the needed design work for the Highway 213 corridor in Oregon City. This project, once designed and completed, will improve safety, reduce congestion, and allow

for future economic development opportunities in Oregon City and Clackamas County,” **said Oregon City Mayor Denyse McGriff.**

"Thank you to Senator Wyden, Senator Merkley, and Congressman Blumenauer for your advocacy for traffic safety funding for Portland. As our city continues to face record-high traffic fatalities, a growing maintenance backlog, and a historic budget deficit, we are very grateful for this influx of funds," **said Portland Bureau of Transportation Director Millicent Williams.** "This \$2.3 million investment will help us construct new traffic signals on SE 112th Avenue at two intersections in East Portland where a high number of crashes have occurred – SE Division Street and SE Holgate Boulevard."

“We are so grateful to Senator Wyden, Senator Merkley, and Congresswoman Bonamici for their leadership in combating Portland’s housing crisis,” **said Portland City Commissioner Carmen Rubio.** “The Barbur Apartments will bring 149 affordable homes to Southwest Portland, with outreach and services targeted toward immigrant and refugee communities.”

“Thank you to Senators Merkley and Wyden and Congresswoman Bonamici for supporting our community’s vision of a thriving, walkable downtown. The funds the city received for our Downtown Loop Project will make our city more economically vibrant and environmentally sustainable, while also creating more community space for our residents to live, shop, work, and play,” **said Mayor Beaty.**

“Senators Merkley and Wyden have continued their long-term commitment to Oregon’s underserved communities, and for that POIC + RAHS is grateful. The Sunrise Learning Center adds to the investments our Senators have brought to the diverse Rockwood community, and will allow POIC to scale up services in education for vulnerable youth and families, multi-sector workforce development, and the on-going need for maintaining safe communities,” **said Joe McFerrin II, President/CEO of POIC + RAHS**

"Thank you to Senators Merkley and Wyden for supporting Neighborhood House's Growing our Village capital project, launched to address the crisis of growing wealth inequity in our community. Funds will allow us to develop essential space and grow capacity for core Neighborhood House programs, including our Senior Center and Free Food Market. The new facility will make it possible for many more community members to access life-changing services for decades to come,” **said Chris Chiacchierini, Neighborhood House Executive Director.**

“Ensuring we have safe resilient spaces for people to gather and shelter during emergency situations is essential for our community. THPRD is grateful for the leadership and support of Senators Merkley and Wyden, and Congresswoman Bonamici, for their efforts championing this community sheltering grant, that will enable THPRD to upgrade facilities so we can serve the public when they need us the most,” **said Alfredo Moreno, Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District Board President.**

“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.**

“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.**

“The existing Tualatin-Valley (TV) Highway corridor presents several challenges and significant safety risks, particularly for vulnerable travelers. Pedestrian crossings are sparse, existing sidewalks are narrow and lacking accessibility features, and some portions of the highway don’t even have a sidewalk. Thanks to Congresswoman Bonamici, Senator Wyden, and Senator Merkley, this funding will be used to make TV Highway safer for everyone,” **said Mayor Malynda Wenzl, City of Forest Grove.**

“Washington County is the second most populous county in Oregon and there are currently no permanent emergency shelters serving individuals and couples in the entire county. Thank you to Congresswoman Bonamici for leading the charge to secure critical federal funding that will help make this project a reality, and to Senators Wyden and Merkley for their strong support. Once this project is built, it will provide desperately needed shelter infrastructure serving Hillsboro and the broader Washington County community and will serve as a gateway into housing stability for its most vulnerable residents,” **said Mayor Steve Callaway, City of Hillsboro.**

“Increasing transit opportunities on Mt Hood will require a lot of work, and this project is the first step to expand the vision around the mountain,” **said Commissioner Martha Schrader.**

“Thank you to Representative Blumenauer for sponsoring this request, and for the support of Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley to advance this funding.”

“We are so fortunate in Oregon to have Congressional leaders who invest in the wellbeing of children and families facing the hardest things in life,” **said Terri Sorensen, Friends of the Children-National Chief Executive Officer.** “The National Center of Excellence for Paid Professional mentoring will be the hub of training and technical assistance for paid, professional mentors in Oregon and throughout the country. Thank you to Senators Merkley and Wyden, and Representative Blumenauer, for advancing our vision that every child who needs a Friend has one.”

“Thank you to our Congressional delegation, Senators Merkley and Wyden and Representative Blumenauer for choosing to support the Albina neighborhood, the home of Friends of the

Children – Portland, as we develop the National Center of Excellence for Paid Professional Mentoring, that will allow Friends to walk alongside youth for generations to come,” **said Traci Rossi, Executive Director of Friends of the Children – Portland.**

“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 PanAfrican 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).**

“We greatly appreciate Senator Wyden, Senator Merkley, and Congressman Blumenauer’s support in helping Portland Parks and Recreation improve lighting infrastructure in our parks,” **said Portland City Commissioner Dan Ryan.** “Thanks to the efforts of our Congressional delegation, some of our most important community spaces will continue to be safe, inviting places to gather and play.”

"Survivors of abuse in Oregon deserve to have all their needs met in a safe, trauma informed, and accessible place. The Family Peace Center of Washington County aims to unite all the victim and survivor service providers in the county in one location, becoming a holistic family trauma center. The advocacy and investment by Senators Merkley and Wyden, and Congresswoman Bonamici brings the resources our vision needs to begin construction on this new reality," **said Rachel Schutz, Executive Director of the Family Justice Center of Washington County.**

“I am extremely grateful to Senators Wyden and Merkley for their work in obtaining needed funding for salmon restoration and healthier waterways. These federal dollars will be used to remove a culvert that prevents endangered salmon, steelhead, and lamprey in the Willamette River from reaching the cool waters and healthy habitat of Tryon Creek. With these federal dollars, we look forward to continuing our longstanding and fruitful partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers that has restored Crystal Springs and Oaks Bottom, and soon Tryon Creek. These projects help us recover species that are threatened with extinction, and they restore our waterways for the benefit of people and wildlife,” **said Commissioner Mingus Mapps, Portland Bureau of Transportation, Water Bureau, and the Bureau of Environmental Services.**

“The FY2024 Community Initiated Project funding from the Department of Energy (DOE) will fund renewable electricity and storage capabilities at Parrott Creek Child & Family Services that will save money, improve efficiency, reduce carbon emissions and wildfire risk, and help to make the campus achieve Net Zero energy usage. The storage capabilities will provide resilience for

our rural facility during loss of grid power events which pose a high risk to the vulnerable youth in our care. We believe that we can both nurture our youth and the environment at the same time. In fact, it is imperative that we do. Thank you to Senators Merkley and Wyden for supporting our youth, our families and our state to be healthy and resilient,” **said Simon Fulford, Executive Director, Parrott Creek Child & Family Services.**

“I applaud Senators Merkley and Wyden for their leadership in strengthening the nursing profession,” **said Susan Bakewell-Sachs, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, dean of the OHSU School Nursing.** “OHSU’s proposed initiative to innovate on the traditional model of nursing education is focused on nurturing the skills and job satisfaction of our clinical nurses and nurse educators. Our senators’ support for this effort helps to advance our shared vision of growing and retaining our important nursing workforce across Oregon.”

“This FY2024 Community Initiated Project funding will allow Parrott Creek Child & Family Services to bring online 40 brand new youth residential treatment beds helping Oregon meet the behavioral healthcare needs of highly vulnerable youth. Based in rural Clackamas County but serving children and teens from across all of Oregon, Parrott Creek will use this federal funding to help Oregon fill the large hole in its system of care by applying trauma-informed principles as much to the care we provide to kids as we do to the design of the buildings themselves. Led by a focus on equity and social justice we hope that our new buildings and services set a new standard for the care and nurturing all children should receive no matter who they are or where they come from. Thank you to Senators Merkley and Wyden for supporting our youth, our families and communities across Oregon,” **said Simon Fulford, Executive Director, Parrott Creek Child & Family Services.**

“Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden understand how important it is for families in East Multnomah County to have access to quality healthcare. I’m grateful for their support of our Health Department’s efforts to modernize our newly purchased health clinic in Rockwood which will improve the health of individuals, their families and our community,” **said Multnomah County Chair Jessica Vega Pederson.**

“Portland Community College is grateful to Senators Merkley and Wyden for their commitment to expanding behavioral healthcare,” **said Dr. Adrien Bennings, PCC President.** “This critical funding will help increase the availability of a skilled mental health workforce, while connecting underserved populations to careers that provide economic mobility.”

“I am grateful for Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley’s support for the Ballmer Institute for Children’s Behavioral Health. The Ballmer Institute aims to expand access to behavioral health services for youth and address existing workforce shortages by creating a new mental health profession that only requires an undergraduate degree—the child behavioral health specialist,” **said Dr. Katie McLaughlin, incoming executive director of the institute.**

“We plan to work with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) to develop a pilot project that will provide easy access for educators and school

administrators to universal behavioral health screening resources, a data dashboard, and a consortium of practitioners,” **said Dr. Randy Kamphaus, acting executive director of the institute.**

“Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden’s funding to support the YouthLine national platform will help lead the charge toward supporting youth mental wellness across the country and in Oregon. This youth peer-to-peer support and crisis service will be available to even more young people who face the unique mental wellness challenges of growing up today in America, helping to create a brighter future for next generations,” **said Emily Moser, Director of YouthLine Programs at Lines for Life.**

“My administration is taking steps to give every Oregon child the opportunity to learn to read and write. Support for our local libraries – particularly in rural communities – is a fundamental component of that goal. Our libraries are where our children with support from their families have the chance to practice their reading skills and cultivate a love of reading and learning about topics that spark their interests. Kudos to our federal delegation for advancing this work. Every child is full of promise, and funding our rural libraries will help create the conditions for more Oregon students to thrive,” **said Governor Kotek.**

“Students, teachers and parents know school libraries play a critical role in the health and success of the school community,” **said Dr. Charlene Williams, Director of Oregon Department of Education.** “With this funding, more students throughout rural Oregon would have a safe place to foster their curiosity and develop their reading skills.”