



April 8, 2021

Congressman Cliff Bentz
Delivery via email

Honorable Congressman Bentz,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a letter of support for the City of Bend's request for federal funding to complete the US 97 interchange at Murphy Road. On behalf of the Bend Chamber's 1,500 business members, the organization whole heartily supports efforts to minimize congestion and plan for future infrastructure needs. As you know from recent conversations with Bend Chamber leadership, the city is struggling to keep up with recent growth and the associated impact on our infrastructure system.

Bend has consistently been one of the fastest growing cities in the US for much of the past 20 years. This interchange serves a rapidly growing area in southern Bend. Almost 1,000 homes have been approved for construction and another 1,000 homes are in the planning review process. A new high school is also under construction in this area, and the Bend Park and Recreation District is currently building a new regional park. Additionally, there are significant employment lands that would be served by this interchange, which is of particular interest to our business members.

Completing this interchange is critical to provide transportation routes choices in Southeast Bend, improve safety and to alleviate congestion on other roadways in that area. Completion of the interchange will create opportunity for developing a mix of residential and employment lands and road grid systems in large vacant parcels that currently have limited road access. Development of these lands and transportation networks align with the goals of the City of Bend's transportation planning efforts, which the Chamber has been an active participant and supporter.

We are keenly aware that competition for transportation funding is strong. The residents of Bend have demonstrated their commitment to building a robust transportation system, and we support the City's request for federal funding to complete this important project.

Thank you for your consideration of this project funding request.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katy Brooks". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

Katy Brooks
President + CEO
Bend Chamber of Commerce

Creating an environment where businesses, their employees and our community excel together through collaboration, advocacy, resources and leadership to meet Bend's business challenges.