

# COLUMBIA COUNTY

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March 12, 2026

Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici  
2231 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: Support for the City of Vernonia's State Avenue Restoration Project.

Dear Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici,

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners strongly supports the City of Vernonia's application for funding under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Transit Infrastructure Grants (TIG) program. This funding is crucial for the State Avenue Restoration Project, which aims to enhance pedestrian safety, improve access to vital city and county facilities, and support local businesses.

State Avenue is a key corridor in the heart of Vernonia, and this project will significantly increase sidewalk width, install curb ramps, and remediate access to important public spaces. By improving pedestrian infrastructure, the project will foster greater accessibility and safety for all users, including those with disabilities, and support the enhanced reliability of access for businesses dependent on State Avenue.

The project also aligns with state transportation goals and will have lasting benefits for the local community and economy.

We urge full funding for this critical project to ensure safe, accessible transportation options for Vernonia and Columbia County.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
For Columbia County, Oregon

  
Kellie Jo Smith, Chair

  
Casey Garrett, Commissioner

  
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner