



**WASHINGTON COUNTY LETTER OF SUPPORT**  
**Proposed Augusta Lane Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge**

**SITUATION:**

Washington County would like to request a letter of support from the School Board, with an emphasis on the Augusta Bridge project, as part of a funding request package to be developed by the county.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

On April 29, 2014 Washington County made a presentation to the School Board regarding proposed enhancements to the community including a pedestrian and bicycle bridge over Beaverton Creek on SW Augusta Lane in Aloha. The county is applying for a Nature in Neighborhood Capital Project grant from Metro.

The proposed bridge would provide safe and direct pedestrian and bicycle access to Beaver Acres School for 900+ households west of Beaverton Creek. Currently students in this area are bussed up to 1 ½ miles to school due to poor street connectivity and a lack of low-traffic walking routes.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**(15-504) BE IT RESOLVED** that the Beaverton School Board supports the Nature in the Neighborhood Capital Project grant from Metro.

**District Goal:** All students will show continuous progress toward their personal learning goals, developed in collaboration with teachers and parents, and will be prepared for post-secondary education and career success.

The Beaverton School District recognizes the diversity and worth of all individuals and groups. It is the policy of the Beaverton School District that there will be no discrimination or harassment of individuals or groups based on race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, marital status, age, veterans' status, genetic information or disability in any educational programs, activities or employment.



January 12, 2015

Mary Rose Navarro  
Metro Natural Areas Program  
600 NE Grand Ave  
Portland, OR 97232

Re: Proposed Augusta Lane Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge

Dear Ms. Navarro:

I write on behalf of the Beaverton School Board in support of the proposed pedestrian/bicycle bridge over Beaverton Creek on SW Augusta Lane in Aloha. Washington County staff presented to the Board regarding this project on April 29, 2014.

The presentation noted the proposed bridge would provide safe and direct pedestrian and bicycle access to Beaver Acres School for 900+ households west of Beaverton Creek. Currently, students in this area are bussed up to 1½ miles to school due to poor street connectivity and a lack of low-traffic walking routes. The proposed bridge would put many of our students within the state-sanctioned walking distance of one mile along “hazard”-free routes, with some students as close as ¼ mile.

The Board understands that the proposed bridge could incorporate educational features providing students with enhanced environmental awareness of the Beaverton Creek watershed and riparian habitat. Many of the students at Beaver Acres Elementary School are from low-income families (in the 2013-14 school year 60% of Beaver Acres students qualified for free or reduced lunch under federal guidelines) and may not have opportunity for after-school educational opportunities. Reducing bussing will increase the ability of students to attend programs at school after the regular school day.

The Board was informed that the Washington County Sheriff’s Office has provided input ensuring pedestrian safety through construction of a bridge with direct line-of-sight from end to end. The bridge also has strong support from our school district’s transportation and safety staff because of its potential to reduce transportation costs and increase walking participation rates.

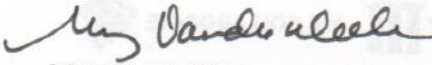
Given the Board’s understanding of the proposed bridge project, the members of the Beaverton School Board support the county’s application for a Metro Nature in the Neighborhoods capital grant to fund a portion of the construction costs. Members of the Board believe it is a valuable project that will improve connectivity, safety, health and access to nature for Beaver Acres students and other members of the Aloha community.

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If the project is funded, the Board requests the opportunity to review concept-planning documents when the project reaches that stage.

Sincerely,



Mary VanderWeele  
Chair, Beaverton School Board

