

January 20, 2005

Robin Marshburn
ODOT, TDD
Planning Section
555 13th St. NE, Suite 2
Salem, Oregon 97301-4178

Re: Hwy 99 Freight Route (MAILED 01/12/03)

Dear Mr. Marshburn:

First, I take this opportunity to thank you, on behalf of the Mayor, Council and me, for attending and making presentation at the Junction City Council Meeting on December 14, 2004 in reference to the proposed freight route plan. We all appreciate you taking the time from your busy schedule meet with us.

Second, the City of Junction City takes the proposed freight route proposal seriously. We therefore believe that it is necessary to comment on it and express our opposition to that portion of the plan that includes 99 Highway that impacts Junction City.

Last, we oppose the freight route designation for Highway 99 through Junction City for the following reasons:

1. If the designation becomes a reality, truck traffic will increase, we think dramatically, through an already extremely busy street (Ivy Street) in Junction City. The comment that traffic will decrease may have some validity but it is the wrong kind of traffic that will decrease for Junction City. Increased truck traffic will slow the traffic flow, decrease visibility for those in smaller vehicles and create a more hazardous environment for those who walk or ride cycles.
2. Junction City is in a growth phase and further restriction of access to Highway 99 to serve a truck route is not in Junction City's best interests. It would further diminish Junction City's ability to manage its own growth because of larger bureaucratic demands.
3. Only part of 99W is four-lane. North of Junction City large segments of the highway are two-lane leading to the creation of further truck congestion because of the funnel effect from Eugene through Junction City.
4. The highway is a very narrow four-lane through Junction City, without possibility of making it wider. When trucks are running parallel to each other, it is sometimes overwhelming to pedestrians and cyclists.
5. The statement that there "may" be more dollars for freight route maintenance and repair leaves us with at least a feeling of uncertainty, if not skepticism. There are no guarantees that the freight routes will garner more funding for maintenance and repair in reasonable time frames or at all. Even if there were guarantees of some extra funding, it would appear that the negatives still outweigh the positives.

In summary, and to reiterate, Junction City is opposed to 99W being designated as a freight route and would request that ODOT not include it in any plan as such.

Sincerely,

Mike Leighton
City Administrator

- C. Mayor, Larry Crowley
City Council
Tom Stinchfield (Lane County)
David Renshaw
Sandra Belson