



March 14, 2013

Chair John Ludlow
Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
2051 Kaen Rd.
Oregon City, OR 97045

RE: Mountain Express Bus Service

Dear Chair Ludlow:

On behalf of the citizens residing in the Villages at Mt. Hood, I would like to thank you and the Board of County Commissioners for your on-going support of the Mountain Express bus service. The commitment of \$9,500 in match funds is invaluable to helping this service continue.

The Mountain Express continues to show strong ridership numbers in the face of a difficult time in our economy. The service consistently provides an average of 1,800 rides per month to members of our community, including students, job seekers, seniors and persons with disabilities. Approximately 14% of our ridership is composed of seniors and persons with disabilities, giving them access to transportation options and the ability to remain independent.

As a result of the partnership formed between the Villages at Mt. Hood, Mt. Hood National Forest, Oregon Department of Transportation, Timberline Lodge, Mt. Hood Ski Bowl, the City of Sandy and many other partners, the Mountain Express is preparing to expand service to Government Camp and other employment and recreational centers in the Mt. Hood area. With the success of a recent grant application, two new buses will be purchased and the expanded service will go into effect in October, 2013. This is an exciting new opportunity for growth and for building public-private partnerships to provide sustainability for the bus service.

We also appreciate the role that Clackamas County Social Services has taken in helping us provide this service. When we needed a fiscal agent four years ago, Social Services stepped in to provide us with much needed planning and fiscal management services.

In conclusion, the support of the Board of County Commissioners has been an essential factor in keeping this lifeline service available to the residents of our rural communities. We hope that this support of \$9,500 per year will continue for the new fiscal year beginning 7/1/13. These match funds continue to be a vital part of our service and will be even more essential as the service expands to Government Camp this year.

We thank you for your commitment to the Mountain Express service and look forward to seeing this transit service grow in the future.

Sincerely,

Robert Reeves
Transit Steering Committee (Mountain Express)
The Villages at Mt. Hood