



Rogue Valley
Metropolitan Planning Organization

Regional Transportation Planning

Ashland • Central Point • Eagle Point • Jacksonville • Medford • Phoenix • Talent • White City
Jackson County • Rogue Valley Transportation District • Oregon Department of Transportation

August 17, 2026

The Honorable Cliff Bentz, Congressman 2nd District
U.S. House of Representatives
1239 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Bentz,

On behalf of the Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (RVMPO), we write to express our support for two federal transportation proposals now under consideration in Congress: the **BASICS Act (H.R. 7437)** and the **BUILD America 250 Act**. Both bills advance priorities that are essential to metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and to the local jurisdictions we serve.

As you know, MPOs are responsible for coordinating regional transportation planning, programming federal funds, and ensuring that investments reflect local needs, safety priorities, and long-range strategies. These responsibilities are increasingly difficult to meet under current funding constraints, aging infrastructure, and rising project delivery costs. The provisions in these two bills would meaningfully strengthen our ability to deliver a safe and efficient regional transportation system.

The **BASICS Act** addresses long-standing challenges faced by MPOs and local governments by:

- Expanding flexible Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding, which is the backbone of regional transportation system investment.
- Increasing direct MPO access to federal funds and improving alignment between federal programs and regional priorities.
- Strengthening the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), ensuring safety funds remain dedicated to safety outcomes.
- Providing additional support for locally owned bridges, which make up the majority of our region's bridge inventory.

These provisions would help our MPO deliver projects more efficiently and address critical safety and infrastructure needs.

The **BUILD America 250 Act** represents a significant step toward long-term federal transportation stability. We are particularly supportive of:

- The bill's predictable formula funding, which strengthens our Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and long-range plan financial constraint.

- The largest-ever federal investment in bridges includes programs that directly benefit local jurisdictions
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) streamlining provisions that reduce delays and improve project delivery timelines.
- Increased safety funding which aligns with our region's priorities and Vision Zero goals.
- Maintaining current funding levels for transit programs and support for increased funding.

These elements would allow our region to accelerate high-priority projects and maintain a state of good repair across our transportation network.

Both the BASICS Act and the BUILD America 250 Act strengthen local decision-making, improve safety outcomes, and provide the stable, flexible funding necessary for MPOs to meet federal performance expectations. For these reasons, the RVMPO Policy Committee respectfully urges your support for these two important pieces of legislation.

We appreciate your continued leadership on transportation issues and welcome the opportunity to provide additional regional context or technical information as these bills advance.

Sincerely,

Nick Card
Chair, RVMPO Policy Committee



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August 17, 2026

The Honorable Jeff Merkley, Senator
U.S. Senate
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Merkley,

On behalf of the Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (RVMPO), we write to express our support for two federal transportation proposals now under consideration in Congress: the **BASICS Act (H.R. 7437)** and the **BUILD America 250 Act**. Both bills advance priorities that are essential to metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and to the local jurisdictions we serve.

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August 17, 2026

The Honorable Ron Wyden, Senator
U.S. Senate
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden,

On behalf of the Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (RVMPO), we write to express our support for two federal transportation proposals now under consideration in Congress: the **BASICS Act (H.R. 7437)** and the **BUILD America 250 Act**. Both bills advance priorities that are essential to metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and to the local jurisdictions we serve.

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