January 31, 2019

Dyami Valentine
Senior Planner
Washington County Department of Land Use and Transportation
155 North First Avenue, Suite 350 MS16
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

RE: **Washington County STIF Discretionary Grant Application**

Dear Selection Committee Members:

On behalf of the City of Hillsboro I would like to express our strong support for Washington County's application for a Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) Discretionary Grant to fund community transit and demand response system technology improvements.

It is our City Council's policy to enhance and improve transit and the transit customer experience wherever possible. Consistent with this policy, funds from this grant will be used to purchase equipment and software to enhance safety and customer experience for community transit, including the North Hillsboro shuttle, along with other demand response services serving urban and rural Washington County.

Transit is a critical component of Hillsboro's transportation system. In response to regional demand for last-mile and flexible transit services in both residential and employment areas, Ride Connection has rapidly expanded the availability of Community Connector services in Washington County. New opportunities to utilize technology to improve the customer experience, create operating efficiencies and increase accessibility through effective coordination and data exchange are now more important than ever.

The development of technologies that support the connectivity of riders that are riding multiple services will make customers more likely to use the service. This will allow more individuals access to employment sites within Banks, North Plains, Hillsboro, Forest Grove and Tualatin. Additionally, without the last mile/first mile connectors, transportation disadvantaged populations would not be able to get to work as readily.

I respectfully request that you give Washington County's application the fullest consideration.

Sincerely,

Gregg Snyder
Transportation Planning Supervisor