

MEMORANDUM

To: Clackamas County Board of County Commissioners
From: Tonia Holowetzki, Director, Public & Government Affairs
RE: Letter of Support for *tumwata village* Grant Application
Date: February 3, 2026

REQUEST: Approve a letter supporting a Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde grant proposal to complete Phase 2 of the *tumwata village* restoration project.

BACKGROUND: The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde seek funding from the USDOT Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program to support design and construction of infrastructure and utilities at the *tumwata village* site at Willamette Falls, producing four new complete streets:

- Previously vacated Main Street will be extended south from 4th Street to 3rd Street
- Previously vacated Railroad Avenue will be extended south from 4th Street to 3rd Street
- Previously vacated 3rd Street will be extended east from Main Street to Railroad Avenue
- Previously vacated 4th Street will be extended east from Main Street to Railroad Avenue

Improvements are described as “Phase 2” of the larger, 23-acre *tumwata village* restoration project. Redevelopment of the site will support future public access to the property, as well as economic development and workforce development opportunities to the region.

The Clackamas County Department of Transportation and Development also plans to submit a proposal to the BUILD grant program to fund improvements to the 212/224 interchange in the Sunrise Corridor.

RECOMMENDATION: Board approval of the support letter for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde’s grant application, as presented.

Respectfully submitted,



Tonia Holowetzki, Director, Public & Government Affairs

ATTACHMENTS

#A: Draft Letter of Support

DRAFT Board of County Commissioners Letter

February 05, 2026

US Dept. of Transportation
Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear BUILD Grant Review Committee:

Clackamas County supports the *tumwata village* Complete Streets application by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon (Grand Ronde Tribe) for the FY 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program.

The project is part of a larger plan to provide housing, jobs, transportation, and other elements. It will contribute to short- and long-term economic expansion, workforce development, and tourism within the City of Oregon City, Clackamas County, the region, and the state. The *tumwata village* site is located adjacent to Willamette Falls, which is the second largest waterfall by volume in the United States. Completing the street network will open the site to the public and allow views of Willamette Falls unseen for over 100 years.

Formerly the Blue Heron Paper Mill, the Grand Ronde Tribe purchased the site in 2019 and has been working to remediate contamination, demolish buildings and structures, and prepare it for redevelopment. The site is located within the Grand Ronde Tribe's ancestral homelands, as defined by the Willamette Valley Treaty of 1855, and has tremendous historic significance for both the Tribe and community.

We support the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde's efforts at *tumwata village*.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

Craig Roberts, Chair
On Behalf of the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners