

8-19-1935

To Martin from William F. Woodward

William Woodward

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THE METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION, INC.

PORTLAND, OREGON

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C O P Y

August 19, 1935

U. L. UPSON,
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Governor Charles H. Martin
State House
Salem, Oregon

My dear Governor Martin:

You were in attendance on Thursday at the State Highway Commission meeting and heard in part at least statements made by Mr. Corbett, writer and others in regard to the so called Front Avenue Diagonal project which in truth involves the construction of an arterial traffic loop surrounding present and potential metropolitan area on the West Side of the river, northern outlets of the loop being Front Avenue, Yeon Avenue and St. Helens Road. Southern outlets being improved Macadam (using Hood Avenue), Barbur Boulevard, Terwilliger and Canyon Road.

Question has arisen as to availability of federal funds for the alleged reason that Oregon has overdrawn, if one may use the expression, its road account by some 37 miles. If we are to have aid from this source, pressure must be applied from influential quarters. Property owners, taxpayers within the city, particularly in this West Side area have been sadly stricken during the past few years. Steady movement of major jobbing interests from West to East Side is evidenced by the tremendous number of vacant storerooms and offices. Trade has followed the line of least resistance.

Owners of property on the West Side have carried and are carrying the greater share of taxation; have cheerfully consented to the diversion of tax money which they have paid for projects, which were only in an indirect way beneficial.

They built the Columbia River Highway in the first instance, have built bridges and contributed to state wide projects, receiving little or nothing indeed for their own immediate projects. Now they are paying the price and facing the prospect of being reduced to a diminishing minority.

Metropolitan Association is striving through cooperation to reestablish the value of the West Side as a business and residential factor in the city and state's growth.

If Federal aid is denied in this project it will mean suspension, probably permanent, of the entire movement.

The matter is set before you in this form in the hope that you will use your

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Governor Charles H. Martin

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kindly offices in securing full recognition of the situation and its equities
by those in charge of Federal work.

Very sincerely yours,

THE METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION, INC.

WILLIAM F. WOODWARD,
President

WFW:ER

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