



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Transportation

Region 5

3012 Island Avenue

La Grande, OR 97850-9497

Phone: 541-963-3177

Fax: 541-963-5307

September 25, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SU
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg;

The I-84/US 395 Interchange Improvement project is a vital project for ODOT Region 5. Interstate 84 is the primary East-West route and US395 is a critical North-South route that is the key transportation network for the traveling public and provides for essential movement of freight, commerce and agriculture in the City of Pendleton as well as the eastern Oregon Region.

ODOT in partnership with the City of Pendleton, has already committed \$1,000,000 to begin the Engineering work on the I-84/US395 Interchange project. Preliminary Design is underway. ODOT Region 5 is also committed to delivery of the project with the City of Pendleton, if funded.

ODOT Region 5 supports the City of Pendleton's application for the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhood Grant. As a community that is separated by I-84 and a class 1 railroad, the few roads connecting the north and south sides of Pendleton are a failing. This project helps fix this major bottleneck and helps reconnect a community that has been separated by two significant transportation facilities.

I urge your support for this project.

Respectfully,

Ken Patterson, Region Manager
Oregon Department of Transportation, Region 5