

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING ) RESOLUTION NO. 98-2707  
THE 1995 INTERIM FEDERAL )  
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN) Introduced by  
TO REDESIGNATE THE NATIONAL ) Councilor Washington, Chair  
HIGHWAY SYSTEM LINK THROUGH ) JPACT  
FOREST GROVE FROM HIGHWAY 8 )  
TO THE FOREST GROVE BYPASS )

WHEREAS, The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) authorized the designation of the National Highway System (NHS) and the program has been retained in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21); and

WHEREAS, The Metro area NHS was submitted through Metro Resolution 93-1771 in 1993 and included the designation of Highways 47 and 8 in the City of Forest Grove; and

WHEREAS, Congress recognized the Metro area NHS in 1995; and

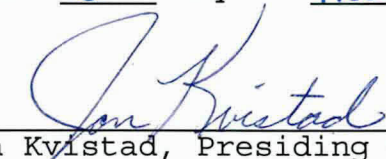
WHEREAS, the Forest Grove Bypass Project will result in a new connection between Highways 47 and 8; and

WHEREAS, NHS funds may be necessary to complete the project; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED,

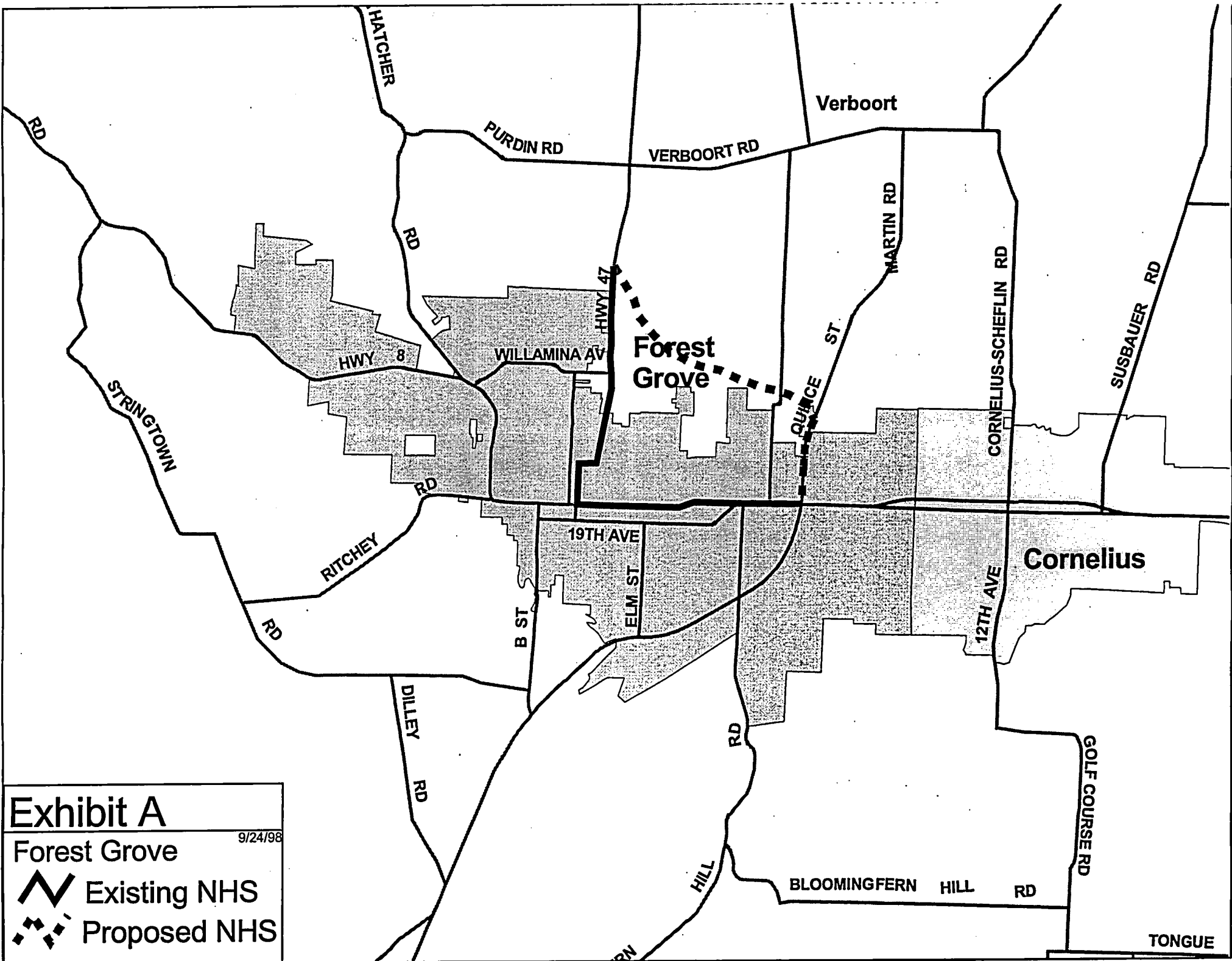
That the *Interim Federal Regional Transportation Plan* be amended to designate the route of the Forest Grove Bypass as the NHS connection between Highways 47 and 8, as shown in Exhibit A.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 5<sup>th</sup> day of NOVEMBER, 1998.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jon Kvistad, Presiding Officer

Approved as to Form:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Counsel



# Exhibit A

9/24/98

## Forest Grove

-  Existing NHS
-  Proposed NHS

## STAFF REPORT

### CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 98-2707 AMENDING THE 1995 INTERIM FEDERAL REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN TO REDESIGNATE THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM LINK THROUGH FOREST GROVE FROM HIGHWAY 8 TO THE FOREST GROVE BYPASS

Date: September 24, 1998      Presented by: Andrew Cotugno

#### PROPOSED ACTION

This resolution begins the process of revising the National Highway System (NHS) designation to the northern leg of the Forest Grove Bypass (new route for Highway 47) between Quince Street to Council Creek. With the revision, the existing NHS designation would be removed east-west from Oregon Highway 8 between Quince and the current route of Highway 47 in downtown Forest Grove and removed north-south from the current route of Highway 47 from Highway 8 north to Council Creek (see Attachment 1). The revision will reflect the status of the Forest Grove Bypass as the key regional north/south route to and through Forest Grove and the east-west connection to the NHS via Highway 8 at Quince.

Also with this revision, the Forest Grove Bypass improvement project will be eligible for NHS funds in order to complete the project on schedule.

With approval of the resolution, a request will be made to ODOT to gain Federal Highway Administration approval of the request and simultaneous amendment of Metro's *Interim Federal Regional Transportation Plan* (RTP).

TPAC and JPACT have reviewed the RTP amendment and recommend approval of Resolution No. 98-2707.

#### FACTUAL BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

##### **The NHS**

The NHS was authorized under Section 1006 of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991. The program was retained in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). The NHS is intended to provide an interconnected system of principal arterials and other highways that will serve major population centers, international border crossings, ports, airports, nationally-oriented public and intermodal transportation facilities, and other nationally significant travel destinations.

The NHS for the Portland Metropolitan Area was developed through a cooperative interjurisdictional process in 1993 and adopted through Metro Resolution 93-1771. In developing the system for

the Portland area, JPACT and the Metro Council endorsed a criterion that all cities within the urban area should have direct access to the NHS. Highways 47 and 8 provide that connection for the City of Forest Grove. Congress ultimately approved the NHS in 1995.

### **Forest Grove Bypass Project**

The Forest Grove Bypass project is a longstanding need identified in the RTP and programmed for construction in the joint Metropolitan/State Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP/STIP) for 1999.

As described in the MTIP, Highway 47 is currently routed through downtown Forest Grove and Pacific University campus. Traffic must negotiate four right-angle turns, five signals, and the one-way couplet of Highway 8, Pacific, and 19th Avenue. Maneuvering trucks is both difficult and unsafe, and the one-way grid is confusing to motorists unfamiliar with the area. The bypass project will continue the southern rerouting of Highway 47 east of downtown Forest Grove by constructing a new road from Council Creek at the north UGB, southeast to Quince Street and then south to the existing Highway 47 Bypass. Once completed, the bypass will be designated the new route for Highway 47 and the existing route will be removed from the state system. The result will be a new Highway 47 and Highway 8 connection at Quince.

The project cost is estimated at \$13.7 million and will be funded through a variety of ODOT STP, Washington County MSTIP, and NHS funds.

### **Recommendation**

The recommendation contained in the attached resolution will re-designate the NHS system from the downtown streets of Forest Grove to the new bypass, consistent with the intent and criteria for the NHS. The designation will also allow NHS funds to be authorized for the project in order to meet cost and schedule.