



HEATHER BUCH

Lane County Commissioner
District 5 – East Lane
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February 3, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: Letter of Support for Disston Pathway Access Protection and Safety Improvements

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the **Disston Pathway Access Protection and Safety Improvements** project proposed by the Row River Valley Community Partnership.

The Disston Pathway is a four-mile corridor in the Row River Valley that functions as an important shared community space. It provides pedestrian and bicycle access in an area with limited infrastructure, supports rural connectivity, and serves as a secondary access route for emergency response. The pathway also runs alongside waterways that contribute to the drinking water watershed for the City of Cottage Grove, making its protection an important public interest.

I recognize the challenges created by unmanaged vehicle access along the corridor, including safety conflicts, illegal dumping, abandoned vehicles, and impacts to sensitive natural areas. The proposed improvements represent a practical, shovel-ready solution that addresses these issues through clear access design rather than enforcement. Installing locking, removable bollards and supplemental physical barriers will help protect the pathway while maintaining appropriate access for emergency responders and authorized use.

The county has worked with the Row River Valley Community Partnership on coordination related to access management, emergency readiness, and rural infrastructure planning. This project aligns with county priorities related to public safety, environmental stewardship, and the responsible care of shared community assets. The scope of work is well defined and feasible within the required 12-month implementation period.

I support this application and believe the project will result in a visible, durable improvement that strengthens community connection, protects natural resources, and enhances long-term stewardship of an important public corridor.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Heather Buch