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# PREFACE

## Providing Mobility for a New Century . . .

As our community moves forward in the new century, we must face its possibilities and challenges. The way we choose to live our individual lives and the decisions that we make as a community will determine how Salem prepares to meet the next century and its expected growth.

Providing mobility is the key to how we shape our future community. Mobility is the ability to travel safely within our neighborhoods, our city, our region, and beyond. Whether it be commuting to work, shopping, attending school, or visiting neighbors, personal mobility provides people choices of different means of travel to reach their destination. For those who choose to walk there should be sidewalks; for those who choose to bicycle there should be bicycle lanes; for those who choose to drive there should be an interconnected system of streets; and finally, for those who choose to ride, or who are unable to drive, there should be a system of buses, carpools, and vanpools. Mobility is giving people choices.

Mobility has another meaning when addressing the economic needs of our community. The ability to efficiently move goods and services both locally and regionally, has a direct consequence on the vitality of Salem's economy. This requires our community to have sufficient rail, air, pipeline, and road transport capabilities.

Mobility means more than just providing basic infrastructure. It means developing a multifaceted transportation system with sufficient capacity to move people and goods efficiently and conveniently. A vibrant community such as Salem should not strangle in its own congestion nor choke on its own air.

Mobility is the result of careful community planning that prudently builds needed infrastructure, respects the liveability of neighborhoods, reflects fiscal realities, and realizes that the development of land uses and our transportation system are forever linked. Mobility means never being overly dependent on any one mode of travel.

Achieving mobility requires our community to invest in its future . . . to do so, we must plan!

