WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners has adopted a Comprehensive Plan for Umatilla County;

WHEREAS the City of Pendleton is proposing the construction of a new route between the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport and other properties located on Airport Road, to Barnhart Road and Interstate 84, to improve access to the properties;

WHEREAS the new connector road will be located on rural land, approval of the new road will require an exception to the applicable Statewide Planning Goals pursuant to ORS 197.732(1)(c) and OAR 660-12-0070;

WHEREAS the City of Pendleton submitted its Airport Connection to Barnhart Interchange Goal Exception, dated January 31, 2007, proposing Exceptions be taken to Statewide Planning Goals 3, 11 and 14;

WHEREAS the Umatilla County Planning Commission held a public hearing on May 17, 2007 to review the application and the proposed amendment to the Umatilla County Comprehensive Plan and recommended that the Board of Commissioners adopt the amendments;

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on June 6, 2006, to consider the proposed amendments, and voted to approve the exceptions and the amendments to the comprehensive plan.

NOW, THEREFORE the Board of Commissioners of Umatilla County ordains that the Umatilla County Comprehensive Plan is amended to add the following as a part of Chapter XV, at page XV-6:

An exception is justified to Oregon State Land Use Goals 3 (Agricultural Lands), 11 (Public Facilities and Services), and 14 (Urbanization) for a new 3.9 mile long frontage road on the north side of I-84 between the
existing paved section of Stage Gulch Road and Barnhart Road near the Interstate 84 Interchange 202 that will cross approximately 3.5 miles of rural land (zoned EFU) outside of Pendleton’s UGB. The road route is selected to provide direct, level Interstate access while minimizing impacts to existing land uses and that can be built within the available funding allocation. There are no sensitive environmental, economic, social or energy impacts associated with the proposed connector road.

The connection of Stage Gulch Road to Barnhart Road is needed as a secondary access to the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport. The EORA provides commercial air services to Northeast Oregon. The majority of the city’s buildable industrial land is located around the airport. A second, at grade airport/interstate access is needed for emergency response to natural disasters, CSEPP and Homeland Security events. The existing Airport Road does not provide a safe and efficient route between US 30 and the airport. This road is located on a steep side slope that would not allow Pendleton to reduce the road grade or remove the sharp curves. During the winter months, the existing access can be shut down during and after winter storms. This effectively blocks all traffic to the EORA and industrial area. The other need is based upon the recent evaluation of the functionality and capacity of the Highway 30 and Airport Road intersection. The Airport Road and Highway 30 intersection will exceed capacity prior to build out of the industrial park.

To minimize potential development on EFU lands along the proposed alignment, future access to the new road will be prohibited for non-farm access to the road except within the City’s Urban Growth Boundary. An Interchange Area Management Plan has been adopted to protect the function of this new road as a limited access roadway, protect the operation of the interchange, and protect the farmland adjacent to this new road.

FURTHER by unanimous vote of those present, the Board of Commissioners deems this Ordinance necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace, health, and safety; therefore, it is adjudged and decreed that an emergency does exist in the case of this Ordinance and it shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption.
DATED this 6th day of June, 2007.

UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Dennis D. Doherty, Chair

William S. Hansell, Commissioner

W. Lawrence Givens, Commissioner

ATTEST:
OFFICE OF COUNTY RECORDS

Records Officer