



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon Transportation Commission

Office of the Director, MS 11

355 Capitol St NE

Salem, OR 97301-3871

DATE: June 3, 2024

TO: Oregon Transportation Commission

FROM: Kristopher W. Strickler
Director

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item J** – Discussion on Legislative Statewide Transportation Safety and Sustainability Tour

Requested Action:

Receive information on the Joint Committee on Transportation’s Statewide Tour; provide direction and feedback to ODOT staff on key priorities, role, materials in preparation for statewide tour and development of 2025 transportation funding package.

Background:

Over the past three biennia, ODOT has forecasted an immediate flattening and future decline in transportation funding available for maintenance and agency operations due to structural revenue challenges. These structural challenges, and likely consequences in absence of structural reform, have been shared with the Oregon Transportation Commission and the Oregon Legislative Assembly, including the Joint Committee on Transportation.

Recognizing the threat insufficient and unsustainable funding poses to the state’s ability to maintain, operate, and improve the safety of our transportation system, Governor Kotek, Senate President Wagner, and House Speaker Fahey are prioritizing transportation during the upcoming 2025 session. Solutions should focus on providing “stable and predictable funding... so the agency can provide the essential maintenance and safety services” and “remain focused on meeting our existing maintenance needs while fulfilling the state’s commitment to high priority House Bill 2017 projects that have not been completed.” Oregon’s Executive and Legislative leadership is eager for Transportation leaders to “engage with community leaders,” ensure communities “hear about the structural challenges facing the statewide transportation system,” and ensure legislators hear “Oregonians’ preferred solutions to this problem and transportation safety concerns in local communities.”

In furtherance of this direction the Joint Committee on Transportation is embarking upon a 12-stop statewide tour through the summer. The tour will visit communities around the state to learn about transportation safety and maintenance challenges, needs, and opportunities.

OTC members and ODOT staff are serving a critical role in this statewide tour.

Attachments:

- Attachment 01 – May 6, 2024 Leadership Letter
- Attachment 02 – Joint Committee on Transportation, State Transportation Conversations Across Rural and Urban Communities for 2025 Package, Rev May 1, 2025



TINA KOTEK
GOVERNOR

May 6, 2024

Senator Chris Gorsek, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Transportation
900 Court Street NE, S-403
Salem, OR 97301

Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Transportation
900 Court Street NE, H-493
Salem, OR 97301

Senator Brian Boquist, Co-Vice Chair
Joint Committee on Transportation
900 Court Street NE, S-311
Salem, OR 97301

Representative Shelly Boshart Davis, Co-Vice Chair
Joint Committee on Transportation
900 Court Street NE, H-389
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Vice Chairs Boquist and Boshart Davis:

We want to thank you for your leadership and commitment to crafting a transportation package that will ensure the safety of Oregonians as they utilize our state's transportation systems now and into the future. The work you are leading is vital to maintaining a safe, functional, and efficient multimodal transportation system, particularly as we respond to a changing funding landscape. We support and commend the plan you have built together to set the stage for this important discussion, including the efforts you will make to directly engage with communities on this critical issue during your statewide tour.

We want to highlight our shared priorities as you prepare to build public understanding of the structural funding challenges Oregon faces and to gather input from communities about preferred solutions. First and foremost, we must provide stable and predictable funding for the Oregon Department of Transportation so the agency can provide the essential maintenance and safety services that Oregonians deserve. Our solution needs to be equitable, sustainable and sufficient to provide a safe and reliable multimodal transportation system that connects people and helps Oregon's communities and economy thrive. We must consider a mix of solutions, but our final package must incorporate community input and be true to Oregon's values and priorities.

Creating and maintaining safe transportation systems is critical. Oregonians must be able to trust that they and their families can use our transportation network for work, school, or play safely.

Finally, the 2025 transportation package should ensure that we remain focused on meeting our existing maintenance needs while fulfilling the state's commitment to high priority House Bill 2017 projects that have not been completed. Finishing these critical projects will leverage significant federal funds, create family-wage jobs, and set Oregon up for future growth. This means we must prioritize completing existing projects before future projects can advance.

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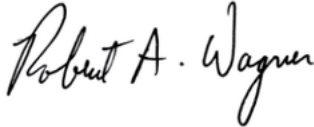
Our expectation is that the Joint Committee on Transportation will engage with community leaders and other important stakeholders in the months leading up to the 2025 session, including in communities across the state over the interim. This outreach should allow for communities to hear about the structural challenges facing the statewide transportation system, and for legislators to hear about both Oregonians' preferred solutions to this problem and transportation safety concerns in local communities.

We look forward to working closely with you over the coming months to develop a plan to build a safe, multimodal transportation system and deliver a plan for future success.

Sincerely,



Governor Tina Kotek



Senate President Rob Wagner



House Speaker Julie Fahey

REVISED May 1, 2024

State Transportation Conversations Across Rural and Urban Communities for 2025 Package

Purpose

- The Joint Committee on Transportation (JCT) will be holding 12 meetings and local tours around the state for the purpose discussing the need for stable and sufficient transportation funding in anticipation of the 2025 legislative session. The goal of convening these meetings around the state is to:
 - Build public understanding of transportation funding challenges and potential funding tools to address those challenges
 - Build legislative understanding of statewide transportation needs and shared priorities
 - Build local, regional, statewide support and a sense of urgency for a transportation funding package focused on maintenance, operations, and safety
 - Gather input from the public and community leaders about preferred methods for addressing the transportation funding challenge

Invited Participants

- The JCT will invite the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Oregon Transportation Commission, local senators, and representatives to join the JCT at the community meetings.

Potential Luncheons/Roundtables with Local Officials

- Each stop will include a conversation with local officials, including community leaders, local elected officials, local legislators, and local business leaders. Conversation focused on what suggestions local officials are interested in discussing as potential policy tools to be considered (local needs assessment, weight mile, CPI on the gas tax, etc.)

Planned Site Tours

- ODOT will be asked to work with local communities to identify 2-3 locations that demonstrate the type of ongoing maintenance needs that the local community may want to share with the legislators at each meeting location.
- From the ODOT provided list the JCT Chairs and Vice-Chairs will select one location to tour.

Meeting Agendas

- High Level Report on Needs Assessment
 - ODOT
 - 10 minutes
- Potential Policy Solutions
 - ODOT
 - 10-15 minutes
- Public Testimony
 - Public testimony informed by the needs assessment and potential policy solutions outlined in meeting
 - 90 minutes

Locations

Location	Notes	Date
Downtown Portland	Group 1 – First Stop	Tuesday, June 4
Tillamook	Group 2	Tuesday, June 18
Albany	Group 3	Tuesday, July 16
Eugene	Group 3	Wednesday, July 17
Coos Bay	Group 4	Wednesday, August 7
Medford	Group 4	Thursday, August 8
Ontario **	Group 5	Wednesday, August 28
Hermiston **	Group 5	Thursday August 29
Bend **	Group 6	Thursday, September 12
The Dalles **	Group 6	Friday, September 13
Salem (VIRTUAL)	During the September legislative days meeting at the Capitol	Wednesday, September 25
Happy Valley	Group 1 - Last Stops	Thursday, September 26
Hillsboro	Group 1 - Last Stops	Friday, September 27

****NOTE – dates for the Bend/The Dalles trip and the Ontario/Hermiston trip have been changed, with the two sets of meetings exchanging places on the prior calendar to accommodate the Pendleton Round-Up scheduled for the second week of September.**