



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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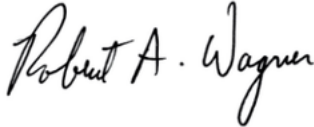
Our expectation is that the Joint Committee on Transportation will engage with community leaders and other important stakeholders in the months leading up to the 2025 session, including in communities across the state over the interim. This outreach should allow for communities to hear about the structural 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