



# State Representative Phil Barnhart



*Creswell Town Hall*

## *Greetings,*

*It's budget time! Ways and Means Committee met well into the evening last night and again today to get the budget proposals finalized so they can be voted on by the House and Senate. We have already voted on some of the smaller budgets, but the larger ones are coming up and are likely to garner more heated debate. You can watch the Floor Session's live by visiting the Oregon Channel here:*

*<http://oregonchannel.org.phtemp.com/rams.htm>*

*Floor Session generally starts around 9:45 and runs till noon. We also will have afternoon sessions as needed. View the Floor Session schedule here:*

*<http://www.leg.state.or.us/09reg/agenda/convene.htm>*

## *Phil*

## **Important Dates**

**June 30th**-Last day of session. We may end earlier, but going past this deadline is unlikely as it would require two-thirds of the members on both the House and Senate to suspend the rules to extend the session.

## **Legislative Report**

Jobs, Transportation, Global Warming Pollution, and Health Care-Now that I have your attention I wanted to update you on a few important bills that were developed throughout this session that are starting to move quickly as session comes to a close.

House Bill 2001 also known as the Jobs and Transportation Act of 2009 is a step forward in the journey towards a

## **Bills of Interest**

**HB3405 & HB2649**-Two bills that compose the Revenue Package for the 2009 session. A large majority of my time this session was spent developing these bills to save education, public safety, and human services from even greater cuts. Next week's report will cover these two bills in greater depth.

**PASSED**

**HB2009 & HB2116**-Health Care Bills will cover 80,000 children and another 35,000 adults under the Oregon Health Plan, resulting in lower health care costs for Oregonians. A later report will also discuss this topic in depth. **PASSED**

**SB 519**-Protects workers right to chose to be or not to be involved in discussions regarding labor organizations, political activities, and religious matters while at work. **PASSED**

As usual here are links to the agenda's for my committees and the House Floor so you can check out what bills are coming up for my vote.

[Revenue](#)

[Environment & Water](#) -  
Committee Closed

[House Floor \(Third Reading](#)

sustainable, efficient, and environmentally friendly transportation system. While this bill does not go far enough to support green transportation systems, it does create jobs, maintain, expand and improve our infrastructure and set us up for better improvements in the future. Transportation stakeholders from the business community, state and local governments, citizen advocate groups, and land use planning experts convened to tackle our state's neglected transportation infrastructure. Creating jobs throughout the state, reducing emissions, and ensuring transparency were among the top principles used to develop the \$300 million package estimated to create and sustain 4,600 jobs every year for the next 5 years.

Projects in the bill will open up access to industrial land, eliminate freight bottlenecks, work to reduce congestion and improve Oregon's position in the global economy.

Oregon Department of Transportation currently dedicates \$4.5 million annually to bicycle-pedestrian projects. Under HB 2001, \$5.6 million in additional funds will be allocated to those projects. This bill and its partner bill, Senate Bill 34, will increase the use of electric vehicles, require the development of a "least cost" planning tool to reduce carbon emissions and costs for Oregonians, and make a \$100 million investment to support and improve passenger rail, and senior and disabled transit.

Every district in the state will benefit from this bill. In fact 50% of the money raised through the bill will be given to local governments so they can make targeted investments to best

meet their transportation needs. Lane and Linn Counties will receive almost \$10 million annually. Finally, for transparency, you will be able to use an online tool to track costs and review timelines with weekly updates on every project funded by the bill.

We came together with bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate to put Oregonians back to work, improve our infrastructure, and reduce congestion and global warming pollution. Hopefully this is a sign of more cooperation in the weeks to come.

Before I sign off I wanted to give a brief update on health care action. House Bill 2009 and House Bill 2116 are two that you should track. Together they are intended to reduce health care costs for Oregon rate payers and provide greater

[Notice\)](#)

You can track any measure by number [here](#).

access for over 100,000 Oregonians who currently do not have coverage. They bring a billion federal dollars to Oregon, dollars you pay in Federal taxes. If passed, these bills will warrant more than just a couple of sentences from me. Stay tuned!