



JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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Transportation Committee Halfway Through Its Sustainability and Outreach Tour, Goes East

Members of the public are invited to testify at the 7th and 8th stops of the tour in Ontario and Hermiston

SALEM, Ore. – Today, the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Transportation announced the [venues and agendas](#) for the seventh and eighth stops on the Transportation Safety and Sustainability Outreach Tour in Ontario and Hermiston.

The committee will hold public hearings to listen to members of the community about local transportation needs and how the Legislature should support the long-term safety and maintenance of Oregon's transportation systems.

"We've made stops in six regions so far and one thing that's abundantly clear is: Oregonians feel and see the urgency in achieving better and safer ways to get around," said **Rep. Susan McLain (D - Hillsboro)**. "We need to improve our transportation systems — from roads and bridges, to buses and bike paths — by stabilizing the way we fund and maintain them. We've had tremendous public participation thus far and I want to thank the public for telling us about the transportation needs and solutions they want the legislature to consider in the future."

Ontario and Hermiston Public Hearings details

- **Tour Stop #7 Public Hearing** - August 28, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Treasure Valley Community College, Four Rivers Cultural Center, Meyer-McLean Memorial Theater, 650 College Blvd., Ontario, Oregon
- **Tour Stop #8 Public Hearing** - August 29, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, Great Room, 1705 E. Airport Road, Hermiston, Oregon

Both hearings will be available via livestream on olis.oregonlegislature.gov.

Members of the public interested in testifying can register in person starting 30 minutes before the meeting begins. The committee will also hear remote testimony if time permits, which the public can register for on the committee's webpage at olis.oregonlegislature.gov. Additionally, written testimony can be submitted to the committee via email to JCT.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov.

Preceding both public hearings, members of the committee will take guided trips of transportation facilities in the region and hold a roundtable discussion to better understand the transportation needs in Eastern Oregon through the expertise and lived experience of local partners and officials.

"The beauty of this tour is that it brings us into different parts of the state so we can see and hear first-hand what the Legislature should prioritize as we work to support the maintenance and safety needs of Oregon's transportation systems," said **Sen. Chris Gorsek (D - Gresham)**.

During the fifth stop, members visited Oregon's South Coast in Coos Bay and saw how erosion and weathering of roads along the coast is a constant maintenance challenge. During the sixth stop in Medford, attendees learned what it takes to keep people moving along the highest point along I-5 during the winter, and also saw how road maintenance crews quickly leapt into action in response to the Almeda Fire of 2020. 35 members of the public testified at both stops and the committee received an additional 38 pieces of written testimony. To date, the committee has received 579 pieces of written and in-person testimony.

Perspectives and information gathered by the committee during its 12-stop tour will inform legislators as they develop a plan in the 2025 session to maintain critical infrastructure, complete work on major projects, and guarantee the safety and diversity of transportation systems across the state.

The committee is vice-chaired by **Sen. Brian Boquist (R - rural Polk and Yamhill counties)** and **Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis (R - Albany, Millersburg, and Tangent)**.

The complete tour agenda [was announced on May 10](#); venues will be announced prior to each tour stop.

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