

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 3, 2024

Press Contact:

Connor Radnovich, <u>connor.radnovich@oregonlegislature.gov</u> Lucas Bezerra, lucas.bezerra@oregonlegislature.gov

Transportation Committee Statewide Tour Heading to Mid-Willamette Valley for Next Two Stops

The public is invited to testify at the Albany and Eugene meetings of the 12-stop Transportation Safety and Sustainability Outreach Tour

SALEM, Ore. – Today, the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Transportation announced the <u>venues and agendas</u> for the third and fourth stops on the Transportation Safety and Sustainability Outreach Tour in Albany and Eugene.

As part of both tour stops, 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.

"Oregon needs a transportation system that is safe, functional, and efficient," said **Rep. Susan McLain (D - Hillsboro)**. "I want to thank the public for telling us about the transportation needs and solutions in their communities on the tour so far, and I look forward to seeing similar engagement as we continue to travel the state."

Albany and Eugene Public Hearings details

- Tour Stop #3 Public Hearing July 16, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
 Russell Tripp Performance Center, Linn-Benton Community College 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany, Oregon
- Tour Stop #4 Public Hearing July 17, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Lane Events Center 796 W 13th Ave., Eugene, 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 the Mid-Willamette Valley 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 most recent stop on Oregon's North Coast in Tillamook, more than 30 people testified in person and another 33 submitted written testimony. To date, the committee has received 388 pieces of written and in-person testimony.

In Tillamook, legislators heard about the maintenance, public transportation, pedestrian, and bike route needs of the region; aging infrastructure; and increased traffic from tourism.

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 <u>was announced on May 10</u>; venues will be announced prior to each tour stop.