

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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Press Contacts:

Hazel Tylinski, <u>hazel.tylinski@oregonlegislature.gov</u> Connor Radnovich, <u>connor.radnovich@oregonlegislature.gov</u>

Transportation Package Tour to Focus on Maintaining a Safe, Functional, Efficient System

The Joint Committee on Transportation will travel across the state to talk to Oregonians about how we can keep Oregon moving forward

SALEM, Ore. – Today, the Joint Committee on Transportation announced its 12-stop Transportation Safety and Sustainability Outreach Tour to hear from Oregonians about how the Legislature can ensure Oregon has a safe, functional, and efficient multimodal transportation system now and for years to come.

Members of the joint committee will engage with local communities about the structural challenges facing the statewide transportation system and discuss various remedies, including how to provide stable and sufficient funding of the Oregon Department of Transportation.

"Safe, sustainable, multimodal transportation systems are of critical importance to local, regional, and even international travel and commerce between urban and rural communities," said **Rep. Susan McLain (D - Hillsboro, Forest Grove and Cornelius),** co-chair of the Joint Committee on Transportation. "We're working to ensure that all communities, all families, and all businesses are provided with choices that are safe, resilient, and sufficient to meet transportation needs."

Perspectives and information gathered by the committee will be used by legislators to craft a transportation package in the 2025 legislative session that will allow ODOT to maintain critical infrastructure, complete major projects, and guarantee the safety of transportation systems across the state.

"We're talking about clearing snow off highways, filling potholes, making sure our bridges don't collapse, and reducing traffic jams," said **Sen. Chris Gorsek (D** -

Troutdale), co-chair of the Joint Committee on Transportation. "Our transportation systems impact the lives of Oregonians in every corner of our state and they need to be safe and efficient for years to come."

Each stop will include opportunities to gather input from key stakeholders, including members of the public as well as local community leaders, elected officials, and business leaders.

The committee is vice-chaired by **Sen. Brian Boquist (R - rural Polk and Yamhill counties)** and **Rep. Shelly Boshart-Davis (R - Albany, Millersburg, Tangent)**. The full membership of the committee can be viewed on <u>olis.oregonlegislature.gov</u>.

All hearings will be open to the public and members of the press.

Tour locations and dates (venues to be announced later):

- Downtown Portland Tuesday, June 4
- Tillamook Tuesday, June 18
- Albany Tuesday, July 16
- Eugene Wednesday, July 17
- Coos Bay Wednesday, August 7
- Medford Thursday, August 8
- Ontario Wednesday, August 28
- Hermiston Thursday August 29
- Bend Thursday, September 12
- The Dalles Friday, September 13
- Happy Valley Thursday, September 26
- Hillsboro Friday, September 27

Additionally, the Joint Committee on Transportation will hold an opportunity for virtual testimony during September legislative days, with a focus on statewide transportation needs.

On May 6, House Speaker Julie Fahey, Senate President Rob Wagner, and Governor Tina Kotek sent a letter to the committee co-chairs and vice chairs affirming their support of the committee's plan while laying out their joint priorities: safety, maintenance and operations improvement, and completion of unfinished projects.

The letter can be read in full via the attached PDF.

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