



HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

For Immediate Release

June 6, 2022

Press Contacts:

Hannah Kurowski, House Majority Office
hannah.kurowski@oregonlegislature.gov

Danny Moran, Office of the House Speaker
danny.moran@oregonlegislature.gov

Emergency Board Takes Action for Infrastructure Projects in Wildfire-Impacted Communities Near Opal Creek and Jackson County

SALEM, Ore. - Last Friday, the Oregon Legislative Emergency Board continued work to support communities impacted by the devastating 2020 wildfires.

The board approved a \$13 million federal grant application for economic development projects benefiting local communities in the vicinity of the Opal Creek Wilderness Area and a \$20 million federal grant application for infrastructure improvements to Oregon Highway 99 in the Phoenix area.

“Opal Creek is a state treasure and important to communities here in the mid-Willamette Valley,” said [Representative Paul Evans](#) (D-Monmouth), chair of the House Committee on Wildfire Recovery. “Two years after the Beachie Creek Fire, this jewel of the state is still recovering and the people living in the surrounding communities need our support. We’ll continue to use all resources to help community members and spur economic growth by attracting tourism, recreation, and business.”

The Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) would use the funding for construction-related projects in communities near Opal Creek, such as trails, pedestrian safety, signage, main street improvements, lighting and tourism opportunities.

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) would use \$20 million in federal funding for infrastructure enhancements on Oregon Highway 99, including improvements for the safety of bikers, riders and pedestrians by widening the

roadway; constructing sidewalks, bike lanes, and continuous two-way left turn lanes; and enhancing pedestrian crossings.

“These investments will bolster our ongoing recovery from the 2020 Alameda Fire and help to create new jobs, business opportunities, and resilience,” said [Representative Pam Marsh](#) (D-Ashland).

Funding will go to ODOT through the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program.

###