



OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE

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Transportation package includes key transparency and accountability features

Salem, Ore. – The multi-year, \$5.3 billion transportation plan, which passed the House today on a 39-20 vote, includes provisions meant to strengthen transparency and accountability within Oregon’s transportation system. The package includes a restructuring of the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC), provisions to provide oversight of Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) operations, and key transparency and accountability mechanisms meant to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being managed wisely and invested prudently.

“Before we ask Oregon taxpayers to invest billions of additional dollars in our infrastructure, we owe it to them to demonstrate that we have a plan for making sure their money is being handled appropriately,” said Representative Andy Olson (R-Albany), who led the transportation accountability workgroup. “The voters must feel a perceived value exists for their investment. The oversight measures we were able to incorporate into this package will provide an increased level of transparency and accountability.”

Summary of accountability features included in HB 2017:

- Places authority to hire ODOT director with OTC, rather than the Governor;
- Governor may not fire transportation commissioner without public notice and hearing;
- Requires OTC review and approval of certain transportation projects and require OTC to maintain web site providing estimated costs, timelines and other details relating specific projects;
- Requires ODOT to perform cost benefit analysis of projects that exceed \$15 million in total cost;
- Establishes Continuous Improvement Advisory Committee, which will work with the Internal Auditor to monitor financial, performance and external key performance measures;
- Creates Joint Committee on Transportation to provide legislative oversight of transportation agencies and progress of transportation package implementation.

The accountability features are included in Sections 1-30 of HB 2017. To view a section by section breakdown of the transportation bill, click [here](#). An executive summary is also available [here](#). HB 2017 passed the Oregon House today and is expected to pass the Senate before the lawmakers adjourn the 2017 session.

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