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## **Statement from Rep. Caddy McKeown on the Senate Passage of the Transportation Funding Bill**

*HB 2017, creating a comprehensive, innovative, state-wide transportation package, passed the Senate Floor today and now heads to the Governor. The bill was the product of the 14-member bi-partisan, bi-cameral, Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization Committee, which spent months visiting 11 communities, from Ontario to Newport, and Hillsboro to Medford. During this tour, constituents and local officials were clear: now is the time to invest in a comprehensive transportation package.*

### **Statement from Rep. Caddy McKeown (D-Coos Bay), Co-Chair of the Committee:**

“Transportation is a key component to healthy and livable communities. Every day, people rely on our highways, roads, and streets to get to their jobs, to school, to the doctor, to the grocery store. That is why our parents and grandparents invested in a comprehensive, state-wide transportation system that incorporated highways, railways, airways and waterways – because a well-maintained transportation systems brings us all together and promotes a healthy economy.

“We should be proud of the work our parents and grandparents did to create the network of roads, bridges, ports, and airports we have today. Now it’s our turn to take care of that infrastructure so that we can pass it off to our children in good working order.

“Right now, our transportation system is in desperate need of preservation and modernization. Our roads need repairing, our bridges need strengthening, our sidewalks need expanding, congestion needs to be relieved, and emissions need to be reduced. Incorporating bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and expanding public transit will move us toward a holistic, modern day transportation system. That’s why I’m proud of the work in HB 2017. It addresses these issues and creates an innovative 21<sup>st</sup> Century funding model for transportation to support the maintenance, preservation, and modernization that our state needs now, and will need in the future.”

“We heard from community members and stakeholders across the state. We were told to be bold and innovative and to increase accountability. HB 2017 does this. Oregon’s infrastructure is the road to a healthy economy—literally. HB 2017 will reduce congestion and emissions, while increasing freight movement and access to public services. These investments will result in a healthier environment, a healthier economy, and healthier communities.”

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