



## OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE TRAVIS NELSON

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## Rep. Travis Nelson and ODOT Cleanup Oregon's Freeways

*The Oregon Legislature allocated \$20 million to ODOT to address trash and graffiti.*

**PORTLAND, Ore. – Representative Travis Nelson (D - N & NE Portland)** joined ODOT and their partners to learn how investments made during the 2024 Legislative Session are being used to clean up the region.

“Freeway cleanups are costing tens of thousands of dollars - I know that if our taxpayer dollars are not used wisely, the \$20 million we allocated will dry up quicker than anticipated,” **said Representative Nelson**. “I’m glad to see the progress that is being made on cleaning up our roadways. We must do more to prevent this so that we are not spending millions of dollars just on cleaning efforts.”

During the legislative session, Nelson was critical of these investments due to a lack of clear prevention measures and is why he took it upon himself to see first-hand how the investments are being used. Portland Graffiti Removal works seven days a week from 7am to 7pm painting over graffiti and documenting the tags to be shared with local law enforcement. Interstate Business Solutions was brought on recently to do litter cleanup and hires within the community to create local jobs.

Nelson continued: “I would like to thank ODOT’s team as well as the contractors working on this cleanup. I was glad to hear that ODOT is looking at prevention solutions. I will continue to monitor these prevention efforts and encourage ODOT to find more innovative ideas to prevent graffiti and trash along our freeways.”

ODOT told Nelson that they will be meeting with the Portland Police Bureau to discuss coordination efforts and what investments can be made to find perpetrators in the act. ODOT is willing to provide cameras to local law enforcement to monitor high impacted areas. ODOT will also be implementing a synthetic ivy pilot program to study if placing synthetic ivy that does not burn and cannot be pulled down will prevent graffiti as well as the use of drones for painting in hard-to-reach areas.

Nelson joined the Legislature in 2022. He serves as a Policy & Communications Vice-Chair for the Oregon Legislative BIPOC Caucus.

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