



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 17, 2025

Owens, McLane, Breese-Iverson Call on ODOT to Seek Emergency Funding to Maintain Oregon Roads This Winter

OREGON – Representative Mark Owens (R-Crane), Senator Mike McLane (R-Powell Butte), and Representative Vikki Breese-Iverson (R-Prineville) are urging Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to be ready to seek Emergency Board funding to keep Oregon roads safe this winter.

Across Oregon, rainstorms and years of deferred maintenance have led to worsening road conditions, including potholes, failing shoulders, damaged guardrails, and drainage problems. With winter approaching, lawmakers warn that conditions will quickly become more dangerous without immediate action. This request for emergency funding aligns directly with ODOT's core mission which prioritizes safety as one of the primary values of the agency.

Representative Owens said safe roads are basic infrastructure people rely on every day, especially in rural Oregon where state highways are lifelines. Without adequate funding, the state risks more accidents, vehicle damage, and higher long-term costs.

Representative Breese-Iverson pointed to the everyday safety impacts for Oregon families and communities, noting that winter driving is already challenging in many parts of the state. Poorly maintained roads increase risks for families, school buses, and emergency responders and require ODOT to be ready to act quickly if funding falls short.

Senator Mike McLane said the issue affects every corner of Oregon and that winter weather will quickly worsen existing problems, making it responsible to be prepared to seek Emergency Board funding to protect public safety and avoid higher repair costs later.

The legislators said they appreciate the work ODOT crews do every day, often in difficult and dangerous conditions, and emphasized that crews need adequate resources to do that work safely and effectively this winter. They stand ready to support an Emergency Board request and will work with ODOT to ensure roads remain safe and passable throughout the winter.

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