



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Senate Approves Jobs-Creating Capital Construction Projects *Part of ongoing focus on putting Oregonians back to work*

SALEM – A pair of construction projects that will create hundreds of jobs in Oregon for the next two years were approved by the State Senate Tuesday.

Senate Bills 5563 and 5564 authorize the use of dedicated funds for the \$65 million renovation of the Oregon Department of Transportation building on the Capitol Mall and \$75 million for a new 451-bed dormitory on the University of Oregon’s East Campus. Neither project requires general fund dollars to repay the bonds.

“Approval of these projects continues the commitment we made during the 2009 session to use the tools the Legislature has to create jobs in Oregon’s economy,” said Senate President Peter Courtney, who also serves as the Senate Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. “We didn’t just sit back and wait for the things we did last year to make a difference. We have kept our focus on giving Oregon and her people the opportunity to work their way out of this crisis.”

In February 2009, the Legislature passed the \$175 million “Go Oregon” stimulus package of 477 shovel ready deferred maintenance projects and followed it up with a \$1.3 billion investment in capital construction at the close of session in June. To date, more than 7,700 people have received paychecks as a result of Go Oregon and the end of session capital construction legislation is expected to create 12,000 jobs.

“Democrats’ number one focus for this session has been creating jobs,” said Senate Majority Leader Richard Devlin (D-Tualatin). “With spring around the corner, we’re making sure the historic investments we made in 2009 are creating jobs while putting additional available resources into projects that will create additional work in the hard-hit construction sector.”

ODOT forecasts its project will create the equivalent of 466 jobs per year for the 18-month duration of the project. The number takes into account direct construction jobs and indirect jobs with suppliers and contractors. Additionally, ODOT anticipates the project expenditures will create 260 secondary jobs elsewhere in the Oregon economy. Repayment of the bonds sold to finance the ODOT building project will be replaced using dedicated transportation funds.

The University of Oregon estimates that construction of the dorm will sustain the equivalent of 126 construction jobs throughout the 22-month duration of the project, with peak on-site employment of approximately 300 workers. Repayment of the bonds sold to finance the dormitory project will be repaid using fees paid by University students.

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