

## JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION REINVESTMENT

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Press contacts:

Connor Radnovich, <u>connor.radnovich@oregonlegislature.gov</u>
Jill Bakken, jill.bakken@oregonlegislature.gov

## Legislators Advance Urgent Transportation Safety and Maintenance Plan

The Oregon Transportation Reinvestment Package (HB 2025) creates ODOT accountability measures and improves infrastructure across the state

**SALEM, Ore.** – Today, legislators on the Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment approved urgently needed investments in the safety of Oregon's transportation system, after a compromise amendment was adopted that simplifies the package but remains focused on improving Oregon's existing roads, bridges, and transit options.

The Oregon Transportation Reinvestment Package (<u>House Bill 2025</u>) is focused on repairing the state's aging roads and bridges, investing in city and county transportation systems, completing major projects critical for the economy, and holding the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) accountable for delivering investments efficiently and transparently.

"This package is about getting back to basics," said **Rep. Susan McLain (D-Hillsboro)**, co-chair of the Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment. "We heard clearly tonight that communities need investment in safer roads, well-maintained streets, and strong local transportation systems they can rely on. That means restoring maintenance crews, investing in preservation, and giving cities, counties, and the state the tools they need to deliver the fundamentals of a safe transportation network."

The public process for Oregon TRIP began last summer with a 13-stop statewide listening tour where lawmakers heard and saw first-hand the need for investment into the safety of Oregon's roads and bridges. It continued with public work group meetings in the fall for legislators and stakeholders to figure out the possible policy and funding solutions to the problems seen on the tour.

This session, HB 2025 has received seven hearings where hundreds of members of the public shared their thoughts on the legislation, and legislators were given time to seek technical information and changes.

"We've listened to Oregonians across the state and this bill balances a variety of concerns with the need to keep our local roads safe and our economy moving. This bill is about potholes, bridges, and bus routes," said **Sen. Khanh Pham (D-Portland)**, co-chair of the Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment. "If we don't invest now, we will pay more later. This package keeps the cracks in our infrastructure from becoming full-blown crises — because Oregonians and our economy depend on safe, reliable roads."

The bill now heads to the House for a vote. For more information and to track the bill's progress, follow HB 2025 on the <u>Oregon Legislative Information System</u>.

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