

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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Final Stops On The Transportation Safety and Sustainability Outreach Tour Announced

The Joint Committee on Transportation will host a panel conversation in Salem during Legislative Days before going to Happy Valley and Hillsboro for the final stops

SALEM, Ore. – Today, the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Transportation announced the <u>venues and agendas</u> for a committee hearing in Salem and the 11th and 12th stops on the Transportation Safety and Sustainability Outreach Tour in Happy Valley and Hillsboro.

The committee will hold public hearings to listen to members of the community about local transportation needs and how the Legislature should support the long-term safety and maintenance of Oregon's transportation systems.

"Safety and efficiency have been central parts of each stop along this tour and will be key to identifying an equitable transportation system that gets Oregonians and goods to where they need to go," said **Rep. Susan McLain (D - Hillsboro)**. "I'm grateful for each member of the public, local leaders, and transportation officials who engaged at each stop we've made. We've heard loud and clear from community leaders and from the public, both about their communities' transportation needs, and, importantly, what funding solutions they would support to meet those needs."

During interim committee hearings next week, the Joint Committee will host a panel to hear from Salem-area local elected and transit leaders. Then, on Thursday and Friday, the Committee will host its two final tour stops.

Happy Valley and Hillsboro Public Hearings details

• **Tour Stop #11 Public Hearing -** September 26, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Adrienne C. Nelson High School Theater, 14897 SE Parklane Drive Happy Valley, OR

• **Tour Stop #12 Public Hearing -** September 27, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Hillsboro Civic Center, Shirley Huffman Auditorium, 150 E. Main Street Hillsboro, OR

Both hearings will be available via livestream on olis.oregonlegislature.gov.

Members of the public interested in testifying can register in person starting 30 minutes before the meeting begins. The committee will also hear remote testimony if time permits, which the public can register for on the committee's webpage at olis.oregonlegislature.gov. Additionally, written testimony can be submitted to the committee via email to <u>JCT.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov</u>.

Preceding both public hearings, members of the committee will take guided trips of transportation facilities in the region and hold a roundtable discussion to better understand transportation needs through the expertise and lived experience of local partners and officials.

"This transportation tour has been invaluable for helping the committee better understand the condition of transportation systems in all four corners of Oregon," said **Sen. Chris Gorsek (D - Gresham)**. "I'm excited for the final two stops where I am certain we are going to learn more important information that will help us as we work on a safety and maintenance solution during the 2025 legislative session."

During the ninth and tenth stops, committee members visited Bend and The Dalles. In Bend, they learned about how the region is working to make safer streets for bikes and pedestrians and what more is needed for Central Oregon during the winter season. Then in The Dalles, they visited bump outs along state and county roads that protect businesses and pedestrians from fast moving vehicles and trucks, learned about the issues that rock slides can cause along the Columbia River Gorge, and heard how Oregon tribal members navigate their lives and livestock along busy roads and fast moving vehicles. Forty-five members of the public testified at both stops and the committee received an additional 56 pieces of written testimony. To date, the committee has received 661 pieces of written and in-person testimony.

Perspectives and information gathered by the committee will inform legislators as they develop a plan in the 2025 session to maintain critical infrastructure, complete work on major projects, and guarantee the safety and diversity of transportation systems across the state.

The committee is vice-chaired by Sen. Brian Boquist (R - rural Polk and Yamhill counties) and Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis (R - Albany, Millersburg, and Tangent).

The complete tour agenda was announced on May 10.