



FROM THE OFFICES OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE OREGON SENATE
&
SPEAKER OF THE OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**Transportation Safety Crisis Averted: Senate Passes
Stop-Gap Legislation to Preserve Services, Protect Jobs**
*HB 3991 and HB 3992 will protect critical safety and maintenance services to
keep Oregon moving forward*

SALEM, Ore. – Today, the Senate passed [House Bill 3991](#) and [House Bill 3992](#), which will preserve the safety of Oregon's roads and keep Oregon's economy running by protecting the jobs of 500 essential ODOT maintenance workers.

These workers are responsible for snowplowing highways, maintaining bridges, filling potholes, painting pavement markings and fog lines, clearing vehicle collisions, making roads passable after wildfires, and generally keeping the state's roads and bridges safe.

"Oregon's transportation systems are the connective tissue for every aspect of our daily lives. Without the work of devoted state, county, and city road crews, Oregonians wouldn't be able to access health care, take kids to school, travel to jobs, or enjoy everything the four corners of Oregon has to offer," said **Senate President Rob Wagner (D-Lake Oswego)**. "With this legislation, we are averting an immediate transportation safety crisis and doing our part to keep Oregonians safe on the roads."

Oregon is one of many states faced with declining gas tax revenue due to more fuel efficient vehicles on the road. Without stable and sufficient funding, the safety of Oregon's roads will be increasingly at risk.

Insufficient funding also risks pulling resources away from other public services like health care and education at a time when federal cuts are already impacting the state's budget.

"With the passage of this bill, families can count on safer travel and communities can count on a stronger economy," said **House Speaker Julie Fahey (D-Eugene)**. "Oregon's transportation system isn't just about roads and buses: it's the foundation that keeps families connected, businesses growing, and workers on the job."

The legislation also:

- Implements significant new oversight and accountability provisions to ensure that ODOT is spending public money efficiently.
- Begins the process of modernizing transportation funding and moving the state away from reliance on the gas tax.
- Ensures that hybrid and electric vehicle drivers pay their fair share for the damage their vehicles do to the roads.
- Prevents deep cuts to public transit services that many Oregonians rely on for daily life.
- Reduces administrative burdens on family-owned gas stations and truckers.

"Keeping road crews in place to plow snow, clear mudslides, and direct traffic in wildfire evacuations: these are all core services the government is responsible for providing," said **Senate Majority Leader Kayse Jama (D - E Portland, Boring & Damascus)**. "Especially at a time when the federal administration is turning its back on its responsibilities to the public and hollowing out government agencies, we owe it to Oregonians to fulfill our obligations to their safety and basic mobility."

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