



JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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Transportation Safety and Sustainability Outreach Tour Wraps, Committee Workgroups Begin

The Joint Committee on Transportation recently wrapped up its 12-stop tour and now convenes three workgroups tasked with providing a start point for the legislature in 2025.

SALEM, Ore. – During its statewide tour, members of the Joint Committee on Transportation saw the many ways Oregonians need a safe, functional and efficient transportation system.

This week, legislators and stakeholders have begun the process of developing consensus ideas to address Oregon’s transportation system with a focus toward fundamental maintenance and safety, public transit options, and finishing major existing projects.

“Inaction is not an option — based on what we learned during our statewide tour, the legislature must act in 2025 to provide stable and sufficient funding to our transportation systems,” said **Rep. Susan McLain (D - Hillsboro)**. “Now that we’ve heard from the public, members of the committee will lead workgroup discussions in three key areas so the legislature can consider the best package for all Oregonians using our roadways.”

From June through September, legislators visited 12 cities around Oregon where legislators and staff received more than 1,000 pieces of spoken and written testimony and engaged in detailed dialogue with 285 roundtable participants.

“Whether we were in Ontario, Coos Bay, Bend, or Tillamook, we learned about the unique challenges that different communities face when it comes to transportation infrastructure,” said **Sen. Chris Gorsek (D - Gresham)**. “We also heard many common themes: Oregonians said they want well-maintained roads, stable bridges, multiple modes of transit, and for everyone to pay their fair share.”

Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation will participate in workgroups consisting of approximately 50 members that will be livestreamed and posted on the Oregon Legislative Information System. The three workgroups will be:

- ***Back-to-Basics / Maintenance and Operations:*** *Preservation of our systems and ADA requirements*
- ***Public and Active Transit:*** *Transit, Rail, Micromobility, Safe Routes to School*
- ***Finishing 2017 Priority Commitments:*** *Projects with statewide significance that are already in process with state and major federal funding secured (e.g., I-205-Abernethy Bridge, the I-5 Rose Quarter Safety Improvement Project).*

"Over the past several months, this committee engaged in robust discussions with members of the public and community leaders about their needs and their suggestions for how we fund those needs. Those conversations were a vital step in crafting a path forward," said **House Speaker Julie Fahey (D-West Eugene & Veneta)** and **Senate President Rob Wagner (D-Lake Oswego)**. "Now, the work groups will incorporate those perspectives into discussions about how we maintain a safe, functional, and efficient transportation system.

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