

**Joint Committee on
Ways and Means**

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**Subcommittee on
Transportation and
Economic Development**

Sen. Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair
Rep. Bob Jenson, Co-Chair
Sen. Bill Hansell
Sen. Chip Shields
Rep. Caddy McKeown
Rep. Tobias Read

MEMO

To: Members of the Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee
From: Linda Gilbert, Legislative Fiscal Office
Re: *SB 5544 and SB 5545 – Oregon Department of Transportation*

Public hearings on the budget for the Department of Transportation are scheduled to begin on Monday, March 25 and conclude on Thursday March 28. Public testimony on ODOT's budget is scheduled for Monday, April 1.

The Department of Transportation administers programs and activities related to Oregon's highways, roads, bridges, railways, public transportation services, and bicycle and pedestrian paths. ODOT also implements transportation safety programs, administers driver and vehicle licensing, and regulates motor carrier activity. Supporting these activities and programs is systematic planning, project scoping, design, and data collection. Program development coordinates the future use of multimodal resources among federal, state, regional, and local agencies.

The Legislative Fiscal Office budget review document, the Department's budget presentation, the Department of Administrative Services budget overview, and the Department's Governor's recommended budget are posted to OLIS on March 25 under SB 5544. Agendas are posted to OLIS on each date of the Department's public hearings and public testimony, March 25-28 and April 1.

2011-13 Biennium Budget Notes

There were three budget notes approved in the Department's budget bill (HB 5046, 2011 session)

Sno-Park Fees

The Oregon Department of Transportation's request to ratify fees established by administrative rule during the 2009-11 biennium for Sno-Park permits requires additional

Legislative review. The Department is directed to convene a workgroup of proprietors of at least five major winter recreation destinations to develop a long-term strategy for funding snow removal and maintenance of parking areas. The strategy shall address alternatives that do not require the continuing escalation of Sno-Park Permit fees for average citizens. The Department shall provide a strategic plan to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means during its February 2012 Legislative Session.

The Department provided the report to the November 2011 meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means. (Item #30)

Oregon Wireless Interoperability Network

The approved budget incorporates the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) "go-forward" strategy for scaling back the OWIN project to instead focus on the necessary components of the project to create an integrated statewide radio network. The 2011-13 biennial budget of \$121.4 million utilizes previously authorized expenditure authority from the six-year capital construction project approved in 2009 by the Legislature. Resources to implement this plan may be unscheduled. The Department is expected to work closely with the legislative workgroup, interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means, the Emergency Board, and Legislative Fiscal Office to assure that the project occurs consistent with the approved "go-forward" strategy defined in its May 6, 2011 business plan.

The Department is directed to report by no later than December 1, 2011 to the Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means and/or Emergency Board on the progress, accomplishments, resources, and risks or issues. The report should include documentation on the efforts made to incorporate existing systems (such as the Frontier Telenet/Day Wireless communications sites) and rationale for decisions that would not utilize these systems. The Department is further directed to report to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means during the 2012 legislative session on the status of partnership agreements, changes in technology, progress on the revised project and to deliver a complete strategy to achieve interoperability across the state incorporating other state and local agencies that may now or in the future subscribe to the expanded system.

The Department provided the report to the November 2011 meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means. (Item #31)

Columbia River Crossing

The Columbia River Crossing (CRC) bridge project is a major initiative to address congestion problems on I-5 between Portland, Oregon and Vancouver, Washington that requires support by not only the Governors of both states but the Legislatures as well. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) budget includes resources to continue work on solutions that advance the CRC to completion of the required Environmental Impact Statement.

ODOT is directed to provide reports to the Senate and House Transportation Committees on the progress made on the CRC project whenever these committees or their interim equivalents meet. Such ODOT reports shall include updated information on cost estimates, proposed alternatives, right-of-way procurement schedule, financing plans for the CRC

project including initial and updated information regarding projected traffic volumes, fuel/gas rate assumptions, toll rates, cost of toll collections, as well as potential impacts on other Oregon transportation funding.

ODOT is directed to secure and provide an independent grade analysis of the project with oversight of the consultant provided by the State Treasurer.

Finally, ODOT shall provide a clear and concise feasibility study, and develop a phased master plan for the CRC that allows for legislative oversight and approval at key decision points and report to the Legislature by February 2012, with the first iteration of CRC reports.

The Department reported to the interim and 2013 session Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on the Columbia River Crossing, and the Senate and House Transportation committees.

2011-13 Biennium Emergency Board Actions

The Emergency Board increased expenditure limitations:

- for the Portland Drive Testing Center remodeling, \$4,187,246 Other Funds
- for federal transit cost allocation, \$900,000 Other Funds
- for passenger rail projects, \$13.5 million Other Funds and \$5.1 million Federal Funds
- For federal transit grants, \$12.8 million Federal Funds

The Emergency Board approved grant application requests for:

- \$154,824, Federal Motor Carrier Safety, to support agency efforts to comply with revised federal regulations on Commercial Driver Licenses and Learner Permits
- \$2.4 million, Federal Transportation Administration, to construct a trail in the Columbia Gorge scenic area
- \$2.7 million, Federal Transit Administration, for bus fleets and facilities in rural counties, Woodburn, and Salem
- \$3.4 million, Federal Transit Administration, to replace rural service vehicles
- \$250,000, Federal Highway Administration, for partial funding for electronic fuels tax reporting system

The Emergency Board acknowledged receipt of a report on the status of the Innovative Partnership Program.

2011-13 Biennium Audit Reports

One audit of selected federal programs (March 2011), two selected accounts audits as part of the annual statewide financial audit (January 2012, February 2011). [Oregon Secretary of State Audits Division](#)