



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

Department of Transportation

Director's Office
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DATE: February 11, 2015

TO: House Committee on Human Services and Housing

FROM: Paul Mather, Administrator
ODOT Highway Division

SUBJECT: HB 2620 – inventory of ODOT property

INTRODUCTION

HB 2620 requires ODOT to conduct an inventory of its real property to determine if it is surplus to the department's needs in the future. The bill leaves blank the date by which to determine whether the property is needed.

BACKGROUND

ODOT is required by law to sell property that is surplus to its needs. ODOT routinely reviews properties to determine whether the parcel is surplus to future needs. We generate on average more than \$9 million per biennium that is returned to the state highway fund in revenue from sales and leases of property. We lease properties that will be needed for future transportation uses until such time as they are needed.

When we sell surplus property, we first offer parcels to other state agencies, then to local government entities before offering it for sale to the public, according to Oregon law.

DISCUSSION

HB 2620 would require ODOT to conduct an inventory of the 112,000 properties the agency owns. Agency staff would focus on those parcels that would have the best potential to be considered surplus to the agency's needs. ODOT's property inventory does not include zoning information. Because of our ongoing efforts to identify surplus property, we would not expect a review of all of ODOT's properties to yield a large number of available parcels of land, and such an evaluation would likely be costly and time-consuming.

Any proceeds from the sale or lease of ODOT property must be returned to the state highway fund because of the Oregon Constitutional restriction of those dollars.

SUMMARY

ODOT currently identifies and sells property surplus to the department's needs and returns proceeds from those sales or from leases to the state highway fund as required by the Oregon Constitution. HB 2620 would require ODOT to conduct an inventory of its properties to determine whether any are surplus to the department's needs.