



June 24, 2015

Senator Lee Beyer
Senator Betsy Johnson
Senator Jeff Kruse
Senator Doug Whitsett

Representative Cliff Bentz
Representative John Davis
Representative Caddy McKeowan
Representative Jessica Vega Pederson

VIA E-MAIL

Dear Legislators,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties, I thank you for your involvement in the “Gang of Eight” and for crafting a transportation package. As you well know, a comprehensive transportation funding package remains a top priority for AOC this session.

Over the five year period 2014-18, Oregon’s counties face a \$505 million shortfall per year. (See [2014 County Road Needs Study](#).) This shortfall negatively impacts maintenance, operations, pavement preservation, safety improvements and capital projects. Ultimately, it will hinder the state’s attempts to attract and retain businesses.

As dozens of county judges and commissioners stated in our June 8 letter to all legislators, Oregon desperately needs a comprehensive, statewide transportation funding package to address the multitude of problems our integrated system faces. Without it, the system will fall into deeper disrepair, resulting in much higher costs to fix.

We applaud you for your tireless work in drafting a package that will help address many of the transportation needs and environmental concerns in our state. Although it may not be as robust a package as the one we recommended through our involvement with the Oregon Transportation Forum, we recognize the fiscal and political difficulties under which you labored. We support this package and consider it a timely and necessary step forward.

We pledge to do our part to see House Bill 2281 pass both chambers and ultimately become law. In addition, we commit to stand with you in explaining to our citizens why a transportation funding package is necessary to promote economic development and maintain the great quality of life we enjoy in Oregon.

Thank you for your service.

With Gratitude,

Gary Thompson, President
Sherman County Judge

cc: Governor Kate Brown
President Peter Courtney
Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli
Speaker Tina Kotek
House Republican Leader Mike McLane
Members of the Senate
Members of the House of Representatives

Comment [11]: If you are going to call out the president and speaker, shouldn't you call out the minority leaders, too?

