



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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**DATE:** March 20, 2017

**TO:** Senate Committee on Business and Transportation

**FROM:** Paul Mather, Administrator  
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**SUBJECT:** SB 798 – State Transportation Donation Fund

## INTRODUCTION

Senate Bill 798 establishes the State Transportation Donation Fund. Gifts, donations and other property or funds can be placed in the fund. Donations can be made to a specific purpose; if no purpose is specified, the Oregon Transportation Commission can determine on which project the money is spent.

## DISCUSSION

Senate Bill 798 would require the agency to set up and manage a separate account to receive donations through State Treasury. The bill allows the donor to specify the use of the donation, or if not specified, the Oregon Transportation Commission may determine how to use it.

Oregon law currently allows state agencies to accept gifts or donations of money or land. Current law also indicates that donors can specify the use of the donation. ODOT has a process for how to receive donations. It is rare that the agency receives donations. Since January 2015, ODOT has received two donations—one for general purpose and one for a specific purpose. The general purpose funds were deposited into the state highway fund. The donation for a specific purpose was deposited into the appropriate expense account.

ODOT's has a process authorized under current law to receive and account for donations today. Should SB 798 become law, ODOT's process would remain the same; however, we would set up the State Transportation Donation Fund through State Treasury and pay a small monthly fee even if there were no donations.

## SUMMARY

SB 798 requires ODOT to set up and manage a fund to receive donations. The agency can already receive donations for general or specific purposes through current law.