



March 28, 2017

Co-Chair Betsy Johnson
Co-Chair David Gomberg
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
900 Court St. - State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chair Johnson, Co-Chair Gomberg, members of the committee:

My name is Mike Scott. I have been with the Oregon Department of Transportation for nearly 20 years. I am the President of SEIU ODOT Local 730. I am here today to testify in support of the Department of Transportation's agency budget SB 5540.

The Oregon Department of Transportation's mission is to provide a safe, efficient transportation system that supports economic opportunity and livable communities for Oregonians. ODOT is responsible for a wide range of programs and activities related to Oregon's transportation systems. The agency is involved in developing highways, roads and bridges; railways and public transportation services; bicycle and pedestrian paths; transportation safety programs; driver and vehicle licensing; and motor carrier regulation.

ODOT operates and maintains approximately 8,000 miles of highways throughout Oregon. Oregon has almost 74,000 miles of roads owned by federal, state, county and city governments. State highways comprise a little more than 11 percent of total road miles, but carry 58 percent of the traffic and more than 20.7 billion vehicle miles a year. Our transportation system is a vital part of Oregon's economy.

ODOT faces a number of challenges as we look to the future. Our workforce is aging and at the same time workers are seeing more and more acts of aggression towards them in the course of their work. Additionally, we face uncertain federal funding, and state highway fund constraints.

I am encouraged to see the legislature taking up the conversation of a transportation package. We are eager to see that conversation lead to additional funding sources that can allow the department to follow through on our mission of providing a safe and efficient transportation system for all Oregonians. Thank you.

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