



May 8, 2017

Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization
900 Court Street NE, Room 453
Salem, Or 97301

Subject: Freight Mobility and Congestion Needs in Oregon MPOs

Co-Chairs Beyer and McKeown and Members of the Committee:

Six Oregon Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) outside of the Portland area wish to convey their appreciation for the work of the Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization. We are thankful for the careful attention being given to needs across all of the modes that make up Oregon's transportation system, and the requirement to address these needs statewide.

While recognizing the necessity of addressing freight mobility and congestion on the state highway system in the Portland metropolitan area, we are writing to strongly encourage the Joint Committee to include one or more funding mechanisms in the pending transportation bill for similar projects in the other Oregon MPOs. The state highway system is critical to the economy and quality of life in all Oregon MPOs, and each MPO is ready to work with the Joint Committee to identify its region's priorities and projects on the state highway system. The six MPOs would like to see those projects realized as part of this multi-year funding package.

We ask that the funding package consider the needs throughout all of Oregon's metropolitan areas, supporting the economy for all Oregonians.

Best,

Bend Metropolitan Planning Organization
Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization
Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
Middle Rogue Metropolitan Planning Organization
Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization
Salem-Keizer Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

cc:

Director Matt Garrett, Oregon Department of Transportation
Chair Tammy Baney, Oregon Transportation Commission
Karmen Fore, Governor's Office