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June 7, 2017

Senator Lee Beyer, Co-Chair
Representative Caddy McKeown, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization

Dear Co-Chairs Beyer and McKeown,

The Bend Chamber of Commerce represents over 1,250 businesses and nearly 25,000 employees from all business sectors in Bend, Oregon. We believe the time is now to move forward with a comprehensive transportation package for the State of Oregon that addresses the aging and outdated infrastructure that has been a safety concern and has restricted the movement of people and goods.

We applaud your intentions to address Oregon's transportation infrastructure needs with a broad-based, multi-lateral approach and encourage you to find a path forward. Bend also supports the inclusion of funding for a functional, modernized transit system in areas of the state where multiple modes are needed to curb congestion and provide equity and accessibility.

We understand this transportation package will be complex and cause multiple funding streams to be increased, or created where none has existed. We encourage compromise and commitment toward a package that demonstrates long-term thinking and equitable and fair distribution of burden. We also ask that revenues are distributed to areas of the state equitably, including much-needed projects on the Central Oregon Highway 97 corridor.

Thank you to your commitment to finding a way forward that will serve our state for years to come.

With best regards,

Katy Brooks
CEO
Bend Chamber of Commerce