



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Department of Transportation

Director's Office

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**DATE:** June 22, 2020

**TO:** Joint Interim Committee on the First Special Session of 2020

**FROM:** Lindsay Baker, Assistant Director

**SUBJECT:** Legislative Concept 43 – Transportation

Dear Co-Chairs Courtney and Koteck, and members of the Joint Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information and context regarding Legislative Concept 43. ODOT understands 3 transportation-related concepts are under consideration as part of the First Special Session. ODOT supports these concepts and appreciates the Committee's consideration.

### **Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund & Special Transportation Fund**

Due to the pandemic, most transit agencies are experiencing a significant decline in revenues available to support existing services. This concept would allow transit agencies to use current STIF funds (funded by a payroll tax) to maintain existing services, and provides a mechanism to fully implement consolidation of two public transportation programs as contemplated, but not ultimately passed, during the 2020 regular session. In this concept, transit agencies must still prioritize expanding, enhancing, and connecting service after the current pandemic subsidies and operations return to normal.

### **Immunity from Certain Traffic Violations**

As DMV field offices were unable to process non-commercial transactions due to the pandemic, many Oregonians have expired driver licenses, permits, and vehicle registrations. While DMV is making considerable progress addressing the backlog and law enforcement has agreed to a citation moratorium, providing statutory immunity for certain violations during a certain time period provides a final "backstop" to ensure Oregonians aren't penalized as a result of DMV office closures.

### **Driver License Suspensions for Failure to Comply**

Individuals with suspended driver licenses have faced an even greater barrier during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly those who need to drive to access essential services. Elimination of the FTC suspension will allow individuals to continue driving to work, giving them the ability to continue to make progress toward paying existing fines, as well as accessing essential services. Elimination of this suspension will result in substantial workload savings which will be diverted to assist with significant backlogs caused by COVID-19-related field office closures.