



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Transportation

Director's Office
355 Capitol St. NE, MS 11
Salem, OR 97301

DATE: June 22, 2020

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

FROM: Lindsay Baker, Assistant Director

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 1601 (-2) – Transportation

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information and context regarding Senate Bill 1601(-2). ODOT supports this measure with the (-2) amendment 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. Yet public transit continues to play a key role in providing safe transportation to essential jobs, medical appointments, and grocery stores. This measure 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 measure, 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. The measure directs courts to dismiss any citation for specified offenses during the period beginning March 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020. 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.

ODOT acknowledges the critical work in front of the Joint Committee and appreciates the opportunity to discuss these necessary transportation fixes.