

Testimony in favor of HB 4053

I support ODOT. ODOT does a good job with a challenging and ever-changing environment. But ODOT can do better, much better. I have watched ODOT now since 2015 when I started travelling OR 6 regularly.

My first presentation to NWACT in November 2015 asked for several changes to OR 6. Nothing happened....

My second presentation to NWACT in November 2018 contained twelve specific changes that would have made OR 6 significantly safer. A thirteenth change – to implement rumble strips was omitted because I was assured (AGAIN!) that rumble strips for OR 6 were already in the next ODOT budget. This time I had the support of Washington and Tillamook Counties, multiple cities, multiple travel agencies, the Oregon Trucking Association, and multiple major commercial users of OR 6, chambers of commerce and NINE legislators some of whom are now on this committee. ODOT conducted a study and nothing was done.

Implementing rumble strips appears to be, IMHO, the quickest and cheapest single major step ODOT can take to make OR 6 safer. After the four deaths in summer 2021, rumble strips were prominently mentioned by ODOT as a possible solution. And apparently nothing has been done re rumble strips.... I would love to hear otherwise.

When you make signage changes. I do favor signage changes, and provide more warnings, you are attempting to move the problem to the drivers. ODOT needs to do what it can in real road changes to make the road safer in addition to any and all signage changes.

ODOT has publicly admitted that the repair work done to the major OR 6 slide in 1996 was faulty. Apparently, sawdust was used as fill for the road. To my knowledge, they have not done anything in the last 25

years about replacing the sawdust with good quality industry standard fill for OR 6.

I suggest that ODOT be required to answer these questions: Why hasn't the sawdust fill been replaced? Why haven't rumble strips been implemented?

I support HB 4053!

Thank You for your time!

Please please help OR 6 get fixed.

Tom Messenger