

Submitter: Debbi Reeves
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB4053

I am writing in support of HB 4053 to begin the process of having the Oregon Department of Transportation evaluate and correct the road and traffic issues on Oregon Highway 6 which connects Tillamook County to Washington County to the east of the city of Tillamook and the center of the county. This highway is an imperative route for all vehicle traffic coming into the very center of the county for all travelers.

Tillamook County is a highly used vacation and recreational area with numerous parks, beaches, mountains, rivers, and rural areas for public use. In the past years Oregon Route 26 was improved and widened for the traffic coming and going from Seaside in Clatsop County to Washington County. The Wilson River Highway has received very few improvements in comparison throughout the past several decades even though traffic has increased during those decades.

ODOT has spent millions and millions of dollars in Tillamook on two different intersections in the past decade or so, Wilson River Loop Intersection Project and the Hoquarton Bridge Project. Though these intersection projects were somewhat valuable to alleviate traffic congestion neither had the human death toll attached to the project in comparison to the number of deaths that have occurred over the Wilson River Highway just in the recent years.

It's a terrible thing for Tillamook citizens to have to make a life or death decision when they need to get to the Willamette Valley by means of Highway 6. It bothers me to think about the people who will die on this Highway while those seated in legislative power in Salem decided whether or not to spend money on this killer highway.

I ask that you pass HB 4053 to begin the necessary process to save lives on Oregon Highway 6.

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