

## **Joint Interim Committee on Transportation**

### **Meeting Summary- Eugene area site tour, stakeholder roundtable**

**Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Members Present: Sen. Gorsek, Co-Chair, Sen. Boquist, Sen. Frederick, Sen. Findley, Rep. McLain, Co-Chair, Rep. Mannix, Rep. Nathanson, Rep. Pham, Rep. Reschke**

**Visiting Legislators Present: Speaker Fahey, Rep. Conrad, Rep. Lively**

**Members Excused: Sen. Woods, Rep. Boshart-Davis, Rep. Evans**

#### Eugene Site Tour

#### **Tour locations: *start and end at Lane Events Center (speaker noted in parentheses)***

- Travel to Maxwell (Director Kris Strickler, ODOT; Savannah Crawford, Region 2 Manager, ODOT; Rob Inerfeld, Transportation Planning Manager, City of Eugene; Sasha Vartanian, Engineering and Construction Services Manager, Lane County)
- Beltline Bridge via River Road (Rob Inerfeld, Transportation Planning Manager, City of Eugene; Sasha Vartanian, Engineering and Construction Services Manager, Lane County)
- Beltline Highway (Savannah Crawford, Region 2 Manager, ODOT)
- Delta Highway (Director Kris Strickler, ODOT)
- Highway 126E (Savannah Crawford, Region 2 Manager, ODOT; Jim Gamble, District 5 Manager, ODOT; Jeff Paschell, Community Development Director, Springfield)
- Stop at Hendrick's Bridge County park (Jim Gamble, District 5 Manager, ODOT; Matt McRae, Disaster Recovery Manager, Lane County)
- Main Street, Springfield (Savannah Crawford, Region 2 Manager, ODOT; Jeff Paschell, Community Development Director, Springfield)
- Island Park, Springfield (Drew Larson, Senior Transportation Planner, Springfield)
- Return to Eugene (Matt Imlach, Lane Transit District; Director Kris Strickler, ODOT)

#### **Tour topics discussed:**

- Bridge seismic upgrades and costs.
- Jurisdictional transfers.
- Wildfire and other natural disaster recovery efforts.
- Costs to maintain and upgrade transportation infrastructure.
- Multimodal services and needs.
- DMV services.
- ODOT employment.
- ODOT emergency and safety services.
- Federal, state and local government funding opportunities and needs.

## Roundtable Discussion with Lane Area Commission on Transportation, Jurisdictional Leaders, Business Representatives, and Topic Area Experts

Committee members and visiting legislators were joined by a number of participants and observers for a roundtable discussion of goals, possible funding strategies, and challenges moving forwards. Welcoming remarks were provided by ODOT Director Kris Strickler and Oregon Transportation Commission Vice-Chair Lee Beyer.

Other participants at the roundtable included: Bart Sherman, Sherman Brothers & Teamsters Transport; Beth Blackwell, Springfield City Councilor, Bill Bradley, Amalgamated Transit Union Board Member; Brenda Moore, Central Lane MPO; Brodie Hylton, Cascadia Mobility Executive Director; Chris McGhee, WS Carpenters, David Loveall, Lane County Commissioner; Eric Morgan, WS Carpenters; Heather Buch, Lane County Commissioner; Jameson Auten, Lane Transit District CEO, Kelly Brooks, Office of Governor Tina Kotek, Mayor Keith Weiss, City of Veneta; Laurie Trierger, Lane County Commission Chair; Mayor Lucy Vinis, City of Eugene; Matt Keating, Office of Senator Manning; Mayor Nancy Bell, City of Coburg; Rex Storm, Associated Oregon Loggers; Rob Zako, Better Eugene Springfield Transportation; Ron Riddle, Leavitts Freight Service; Sarah Mazze, 4J School Dist. Safe Routes Coordinator; Sasha Vartanian, Lane County Transportation Planner, Scott Williams, Hamilton Construction; Shelly Clark, Cresswell City Councilor/Lane ACT Chair; and Steve Adams, Lane County Policy Director.

In addition to participants, others present at the roundtable included: Alex Dreher, Cottage Grove City Councilor; Andrew Hickerson, Office of Rep. Lively, Andrew Larson, City of Springfield; Anni Katz, Lane Transit District; Charlie Loeb; Emerald Valley Electric Vehicle Association; Fred Mallery, EV EVA; Jack Blaschishen, Lane SRTS Bike/Ped Stakeholder; James Gamble, ODOT; Jeff Paschall, City of Springfield; Joel Iboa, Oregon Just Transition Alliance; John Prince, Office of Rep. Fahey; Jim McCauley, League of Oregon Cities; Kylie Grunow, City of Springfield; Lindsay Baker, ODOT; Mallorie Roberts, Association of Oregon Counties, Mark Gibson, OTA; Micheal Liebler, City of Springfield; Randy Groves, Eugene City Councilor; Rob Ingerfeld, City of Eugene; Richard Chasm, H District 4 candidate; Sam Kelly Quattrochi; Lane Transit District; Sasha Vartanian, Lane County; Savannah Crawford, ODOT; Stan Petroff, City of Springfield; Stuty Maskey, House Speaker's Office; Tanner Lloyd, AGC; Tiffany Johnson, ODOT; Tim Martinez, Geotoll, Todd Kieser, Pearl Buck Center; Tom Gustafson, Former Florida House Speaker/ Geotoll; and Vidal Francis, ODOT

### *Topics of Discussion*

- Stakeholders invited to share “top of mind” issue for transportation work/package;
- Stakeholders invited to share one item that is a regional challenge;
- Stakeholders invited to share examples of factors that cannot be controlled that affect transportation in their area, and;
- Stakeholders invited to share ideas for diverse, stable and sufficient transportation funding sources.

*Major themes that were raised during the roundtable include:*

- Safety of roads and streets with existing traffic levels, especially safe routes to schools for students;
- High crash fatalities and a 'zero deaths' initiative for Lane County road;
- Need to explore new funding sources to replace or supplement existing revenue-generating methods;
- Contemplating various revenue sources, including road usage charges, electric vehicle taxes and sales taxes;
- Consistent messaging and education about roads and transportation infrastructure, including current conditions and addressing the public perception of what they spend and what services they get;
- Need for timely maintenance and preservation of existing infrastructure;
- Identify existing revenue sources and regulations that might constrict transportation planning, maintenance, and development;
- Discussion about the size and scope of Lane County related to transportation needs;
- Addressing housing issues and the needs of unsheltered people in the community, and not decoupling housing and housing infrastructure with transportation services and infrastructure;
- Approaching transportation planning with a 'global' approach, such as the Equity Lens toolkit adopted by Lane County;
- Need for reliable infrastructure, especially for commuters;
- Contemplating how to capture revenue from tourists and out-of-state road users;
- Support for public transit;
- Concerns about the environment and transportation related environmental impacts;
- Need reliable access to hospitals, cultural and artistic events;
- Commuter rail development and other railway utilization, and;
- Grants needed for airports and airport infrastructure.