

Dear Members of the JCT,

I'll keep this brief (more later 😊). Two things:

TRANSPARENCY

ACCOUNTABILITY

At this moment in our state's evolution we need to roll back to basics. In eastern Oregon we need good roads year around. For many of us in whatever capacity, travelling 100-200 miles a day for business or personal need (doctors, groceries, work) is not an unusual commute.

Everything else can be put on hold for now.

We need to review what we've got, look at historic funding, and complete needs assessments. Then we need to budget. I would like citizen participation from each region included.

We need to include preserving our State highways and county roads as evacuation routes for wildfires and other disasters. This will involve expanding the maintenance on these connective routes to clear the entire width of the road easement for fire breaks and evacuations. More on this subject later. This will be a new budget item and will change how we maintain these routes and require joint jurisdiction/agency agreements and landowner participation.

There is an unprecedented amount of funding available and there is also an unprecedented amount of, shall we say, "monkey business" going on with Region 5 ODOT. Funding must have transparent audit trails and all inter-agency agreements must be public.

Thank You,  
Susan Byrd - Umatilla County  
Ukiah, OR