

Central Oregon Area Commission on Transportation

Oregon Department
of Transportation

September 12, 2024

Confederated
Tribes of Warm
Springs

Senator Chris Gorsek and Representative Susan McLain
Chairs of the 82nd Legislative Assembly Joint Committee on Transportation
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Deschutes County

Crook County

RE: COACT Priorities for the 2025 Oregon Legislative Session

Jefferson County

City of Bend

On behalf of the Central Oregon Area Commission on Transportation (COACT), I am writing to express COACT's shared regional priorities as you frame up transportation investments for the 2025 session. COACT has had several conversations among our membership, as well as with leaders from the Central Oregon Cities Organization (COCO), and we are pleased to have the opportunity to provide the following input.

City of Culver

City of La Pine

City of Madras

Overarching Principles

COACT agrees on the following principles which we believe should guide the development of a transportation funding package for the 2025 session:

City of Metolius

City of Prineville

- Do not earmark funding to individual projects and focus instead on maintenance and preservation of our existing transportation network, including a commitment to typical levels of snow removal to ensure that state highways are passable in the winter.
- Please apply the principle of statewide geographic equity, as well as population growth and growth forecasts, when considering investments.

City of Redmond

City of Sisters

Key Corridors and Safety

Deschutes National
Forest

COACT is particularly concerned with Safety improvements and maintenance needs for the following key corridors: US Highways 20 and 97, and State Route 126. Please also ensure that ODOT works with existing and in-development county Transportation Safety Action Plans when considering Safety investments.

Prineville
Bureau of Land
Management

Revenue

Bend Municipal
Airport

COACT believes that the Oregon Legislature should consider the full suite of revenue sources – including the gas tax, user fees, DMV fees, general fund sources, and electric vehicle fees – for the funding package, and should tie revenue sources to inflation. The Legislature should also take a strong look at raising revenues proportionate to the impact on the transportation system from each revenue source. COACT also specifically supports increasing DMV-related fees to cover 100% of the cost of DMV services.

Deschutes County
Bicycle and
Pedestrian
Advisory
Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input from the Central Oregon cities, counties, and transportation stakeholders represented by COACT.

Cascade East
Transit

Commute Options

Respectfully,

Oregon Trucking
Association



Commissioner Wayne Fording, Chair
COACT Executive Committee