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September 12, 2024

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

RE: Priorities for the 2025 Oregon Legislative Session

Honorable Senator Gorsek and Honorable Representative McLain,

I am writing on behalf of the Bend MPO Policy Board to express support for several regional transportation funding priorities. Please consider these priorities as you develop transportation investment options for the 2025 legislative session. These priorities are identified in local plans and reflect discussions with elected officials throughout Central Oregon.

Guiding Principles

We believe the following principles should guide the development of a transportation funding package for the 2025 session:

- Focus on maintenance, preservation and safety of our existing multi-modal transportation network
- Consider statewide geographic equity, as well as population growth and growth forecasts, when considering investments

Key Corridors and Safety

Prioritize safety and maintenance needs for the following key corridors: US 20, US 20 and OR 126. Too many people are being seriously injured and killed, and corridor and intersection specific safety improvements are needed on each of these highways. Transportation Safety Action Plans are being developed or updated for Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, and the City of Bend. ODOT should use these plans to inform safety spending priorities throughout Central Oregon. Additionally, much work has been done in recent years to reduce vehicle and animal collisions on segments of US 97. Much work remains to reduce these collisions, especially on US 20 between Suttle Lake and Bend. A recent study (<https://www.centraloregonlandwatch.org/wildlife-passage-project>) identified high priority locations for improvements on that corridor.

Revenue


The Oregon Legislature should consider the full suite of revenue sources, including fuel taxes, user fees, DMV fees, general fund sources, and electric vehicle fees. When possible, these taxes and fees should include inflation

adjustments. The Legislature should consider increasing DMV-related fees to cover the full costs of DMV services.

We strongly support efforts to maintain and improve the safety of our current multi-modal transportation system. By combining our resources and expertise, we are confident that we can make progress toward our shared maintenance and safety goals.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Respectfully,

Signed by:

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Barb Campbell, Chair

c: BMPO Policy Board