



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Transportation

Director's Office

355 Capitol St. NE, MS 11

Salem, OR 97301

November 18, 2025

The Honorable Senator Chris Gorsek, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Greg Smith, Co-Chair
Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government
900 Court Street NE, H-178
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Gorsek and Smith:

Regarding Item 10, the Amtrak Eugene Layover federal grant application, a question was posed to ODOT asking about the approval process for the Connect Oregon matching funds to be used as the state match requirement for this federal grant application.

The Amtrak Eugene Layover project is proposed to provide a 708-foot siding at the Eugene station that will allow for better performance of the overall Amtrak Cascades service. The project is anticipated to cost \$15 million, \$12 million in grant funds and \$3 million in state matching funds. Prior federal funds were used to develop the project through the NEPA phase, and the project is now ready to move into construction. This grant provides the opportunity to take this next step.

In early 2025 the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) approved a new federal grant matching application process. The matching grant funds help to leverage Connect Oregon dollars for substantially greater federal investments. The application process is open continuously to be responsive to federal grant opportunities as they arise and recognizing that these federal grant programs have different timelines. Anyone requesting Connect Oregon funds for match of federal grants must submit an application to ODOT, which is reviewed by the corresponding modal committee(s), and Area Commission on Transportation (ACT) as well as a statewide group, with final decision by the OTC. The request for \$3 million in matching funds is slated to go to the OTC in December for conditional approval, pending affirmative recommendations from the modal committee(s) and ACT. If approved by both the Legislature and OTC, the agency will move forward and apply for this grant prior to the January 7, 2026 deadline.

As always, please let me know if I can answer any additional questions or provide more information.

Thank you,

Justin Hauschild
Legislative Liaison
Oregon Department of Transportation