



# Hood River County Board of Commissioners

Allison Williams, County Administrator

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August 22, 2025

## RE: Joint Committee on Transportation Funding

Co-Chair Wagner and Fahey, Co-Vice-Chairs Bonham and Drazan, and Members of the Joint Interim Committee on Transportation. For the record, my name is Cori Wiessner, Public Works Director for Hood River County.

I am here today to ask you to support the special session transportation package. Although this is not a complete reinvestment for a sustainable transportation system, it provides critical support to help agencies maintain current staffing levels.

The State Transportation system is incomplete without local County and City roadways. During the Rowena fire when ODOT shut down 84 and WSDOT shut down 14, your constituents used local roadways to find alternative routes.

Of the 27 bridges owned by Hood River County, two are load-restricted and four are in a state of disrepair where maintenance of the bridge cannot bring them to standard and requires replacement. The special session funding will not be adequate to fund those replacements.

Hood River County is set to receive about \$865,000 in annual funding with the proposed package during this special session. This will be instrumental in preserving our current staffing. This funding will not improve our programs.

Additional funding will be required to undertake projects in Hood River County including bridge or culvert replacements, paving, or safety projects. The last time Hood River County spent State Transportation Funding on a capital project was 2019. With historic inflation, loss of federal support, and the inability of State Transportation Funding to keep up with inflation, Hood River County cannot consider capital projects until a long-term transportation package can be passed.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today about the impact on Hood River County and please support the Special Session Transportation Package.

Testimony provided by Hood River County Public Works Director Cori Wiessner.