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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation  
Funding

Measure, Appointment or  
Topic: LC 2

After attempting to understand why ODOT finds itself in such dire straits the only conclusion I can come to is gross mismanagement of funding. I've been told that road works were authorized, the money has evaporated, and the projects are incomplete. Now you want more funding. You want ODOT authorized to increase fuel taxes on its own and the governor is now the ODOT director. We don't get to vote on those increases. Will that appointment to director be permanent or is this a necessary step in reining in an underperforming entity? What assurances do we have that this kind of mismanagement won't happen again? Why wasn't this budget issue identified earlier and dealt with? Isn't there a mechanism for that, because this seems like a situation we could have seen coming and what we have now is knee-jerk reaction in lieu of true management. Now as inflation eats into all our wallets, Oregon hits us with multiple rate increases at once mainly to see to it that the I-5 corridor from Salem north can keep moving after this severe funding issue. This hurts. I can afford this, but I know people who can't.

If there was a meeting where this issue was addressed earlier, if I could be pointed to a link(s) I would be grateful. Admittedly ODOT isn't something I concern myself with on a regular basis. The roads need repaired, they get repaired, and I assume everything is fine. The men and women on the ground are doing a great job.