

Submitter: TOM MESSENGER
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding
Measure, Appointment or LC 2
Topic:

All,

It is very likely the current bill in some form will pass. The approach, mostly, is to increase taxes. Perhaps some taxes need to be increased but the first step is for the Legislature, ODOT and the Governor to take actions that will save \$\$\$\$ and head ODOT in the right direction in management, process, accountability and transparency.

Suggestions for improving ODOT via the bill under consideration:

1. Eliminate the OTC - all tasks within the OTC should move to the Governor's office or ODOT itself. Benefit - This will save time and \$\$\$ within ODOT and Oregon government.
2. Moving the ODOT director to reporting to the Governor - Great idea but move the responsibility NOW - Benefit - Improves transparency NOW.
3. CIAC redo - great idea but it needs to have dual reporting to the Governor and the director of ODOT - Benefit - Improves transparency
4. CIAC redo - needs to have public members on the committee Benefit - Widens the viewpoint and scope re what is a real improvement thus making better use of \$\$\$.
5. Require the ODOT project prioritization process to include how long the problem has existed. Multiply the traffic volume value by the # of years the problem has existed. Benefit - fairer method of choosing which projects to do. Gets some of the long term "didn't get done" projects off the list.
6. Change the TLT percentages to 50/50 to help local governments do their job on roads. Benefit - better transportation systems yields higher tourism happiness yielding more tourism and happier Oregonians with better roads.
7. Implementation of all recommendations by the ODOT external consultants (Spring 2025). Benefit - better accountability (more \$\$\$ to spend?) and trust in ODOT's numbers.
8. NO out of state travel for ANY ODOT employee for two years. Benefit saves \$\$\$\$

and staff time (increasing productivity) and emphasizes to all ODOT employees the need to make the best use of every dollar.

9. ACTs - Formal review and recommendations for continuance, change or elimination is due by June 30, 2026 by the ODOT director. Benefit - ensures we are getting the most bang for the buck with the ACTs or eliminate them saving time and \$\$\$.

10. Monthly STIP reports should move to quarterly and have MUCH MORE information so that the casual reader can understand what is changing and why and what the priorities really are. Also, the priorities need to be well enough established that the changes even on a quarterly basis will be fewer.

Thank YOU for serving Oregon in the Legislature!

All the best and KOKO!

Tom Messenger