



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF OREGON

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***“The Engineers”***

## **Testimony Presented to the Joint Committee on Transportation Funding**

**August 25, 2025**

Good afternoon, Co-Chairs President Wagner and Speaker Fahey, and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation Funding. My name is Mark Leece, PE, and I’m the President of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Oregon. I appreciate the opportunity to speak today and to express our strong support for transportation funding in Oregon.

ACEC Oregon represents over 110 engineering firms and more than 4,800 employees across the state. We’ve long supported infrastructure investment and have been actively involved in key efforts like the 2025 transportation roundtables, HB 2017, and the OTIA packages.

Our members work side-by-side with state and local agencies from the very beginning of a project through to completion. We see firsthand the critical need for strong public agency staffing and consistent infrastructure maintenance.

Transportation projects are complex and expensive—but the cost of neglecting them is even greater. ACEC Oregon supports helping to preserve the core capabilities at ODOT and local governments. Today, we risk losing hundreds of essential staff, which would directly impact project delivery and public service.

Looking ahead, we also support a future package focused on major capital investments in the 2026 legislative session. ACEC Oregon is committed to helping build a solution that works for everyone, especially as federal support becomes less predictable.

We also urge the implementation of procurement efficiency recommendations from the recent ODOT Managerial Review. Right now, it can take up to 18 months to get a project started after selecting a consultant. That delay drives up costs and slows down delivery. We need a faster, more consistent process.

On behalf of ACEC Oregon, thank you for your leadership and to Governor Kotek for leaning in to address this complex issue. We’re ready to support you in moving Oregon’s transportation system forward.