

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor



ANSWERING THE OREGON CHALLENGE

TRANSPORTATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Problem: Oregon's multi-billion dollar transportation infrastructure hasn't been maintained to keep up with population growth and freight traffic, hindering Oregon's ability to move people, commerce and goods effectively throughout the state. If critical improvements are not made, it is forecasted that congestion on our roads will increase by 42 percent by 2025, creating gridlock for commuters and further challenging Oregon's ability to compete in the traded sector economy. In addition, since transportation accounts for nearly 40 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, Oregon must provide transportation options that complement our carbon reduction strategy.

Solution: Governor Kulongoski convened three workgroups to develop recommendations for a comprehensive transportation package for the 2009 legislative session guided by five principles: Economic Development; Local Control; Sustainability; Transparency and Oversight; and Statewide Distribution. The workgroup is finalizing its recommendations around four key areas:

- ***Creating Jobs and Strengthening Oregon's Economic Competitiveness:*** Investing in ongoing maintenance of our highways, key construction projects and multi-modal transportation infrastructure puts thousands of Oregonians to work in high paying family wage jobs across the state, is smart fiscal policy because it is more cost-effective to maintain than to repair after years of neglect.
- ***Reducing Congestion and Improving Freight Mobility:*** The Governor's initiative will increase transportation choices for commuters from expanded bus services in rural communities to funding transit expansion in highly-populated areas so Oregonians can spend less time in the car and more time with their families, and Oregon companies can move commerce and goods efficiently and effectively.
- ***Cutting Greenhouse Gas Emissions:*** The Governor's transportation initiative will help advance the Governor's greenhouse gas reduction efforts by providing incentives to the trucking industry to retrofit their engines to reduce emissions, making tax credits available for electric vehicles, and investing in infrastructure that enable the shipment of freight and the movement of people through multiple modes of transportation.
- ***Improving Accountability:*** The Governor's plan ensures continued accountability to better inform taxpayers about how tax dollars are invested and what is delivered in return, including opportunities for state and local governments to co-locate facilities and streamline the permit process, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars in staff time and processing to deliver projects faster.