



Hood River County Board of Commissioners

Allison Williams, County Administrator

COMMISSIONERS

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Jennifer Euwer – Chair
Leticia Moretti – District No. 1
Arthur Babitz – District No. 2
Ed Weathers – District No. 3
Chad Muenzer – District No. 4

RE: 2025 Transportation Reinvestment Package (TRIP) - Legislative Testimony

Co-Chair Gorsek and McLain, Co-Vice-Chair Starr and Boshart Davis and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

On behalf of Hood River County, we ask for your support for the 2025 Transportation Reinvestment Package (TRIP) as a sustainable transportation revenue stream that supports safe, functional, and efficient transportation system.

As a reminder, Hood River County showed up in large numbers at the September 13, 2024 Transportation Road Show in the Dalles. Then and now, the need has only exacerbated as we have faced difficult budgets due to increasing costs and federal claw backs. As a rule the County has had to defer needed safety improvements and routine maintenance work. Roadway construction cost inflation has more than doubled costs, while revenue has grown by less than half since the last statewide transportation package was passed in 2017.

The TRIP framework dedicates 90% of the \$1.9 billion per biennium in new revenue to safety, operations and maintenance. Of that new revenue, 50% is dedicated to cities and counties. Statewide, counties are responsible for the largest share (41%) of Oregon's public road system, with over 32,000 miles of roads and 4,000 bridges. Hood River County would expect over \$1.8M annually from the TRIP proposal to maintain our 210 road miles, 27 bridges, and over 3,500 culverts, a vibrant network that supports access to homes, businesses, our county's multi-million dollar agricultural industry and our county, state and federal forest lands.

In addition, several transportation priorities would be moved forward:

- Replace Lost Lake Bridge on the Hood River in Dee connecting approximately 1,400 residents without an adequate detour. This bridge also carries water for the City of Hood River, the unincorporated town of Odell, and irrigation districts.
- Provide adequate maintenance and safety to maintain the roadway system including paving, striping, sign replacement, mowing, and ditching.
- Complete an asset management system and include a condition assessment of all

assets in the County including culverts, striping, signage, and roadway obstructions.

- Have adequate funding to consider adding new roadways into County Road Maintenance responsibilities (have not accepted new roadways since 2011).
- Carry out a robust evaluation and improvements to increase safety for students accessing local schools.

As a reminder, Hood River County is also a federal timber county and federal funds through the Secure Rural Schools program have not been reauthorized, nor do they rise to the level of what is needed for our county to carry out a comprehensive transportation program.

The TRIP framework prioritizes investments in essential operations, maintenance and safety, while also modernizing and diversifying the funding mechanisms to stabilize and grow the State Highway Fund, while preserving the county 30% share.

Once again, on behalf of Hood River County, we thank you for your support of the 2025 Transportation Reinvestment Package (TRIP) as a sustainable transportation revenue stream that supports safe, functional, and efficient transportation systems.

Testimony provided by Jennifer Euwer, Chair of the Hood River County Board of Commissioners.