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Oregon in Motion: Shaping Communities Through State Transportation Legislation

Cassie Wilson
1000 Friends of Oregon

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TREC Seminar



with **Cassie Wilson**

May 23, 2024



Research Methods and Limitations

Sources

- Legislation, news articles, agency websites.
- Interviews with 30 stakeholders.

Limitations

- 10 week internship.
- Broken links, lack of archives, stakeholders' availability to meet.



Land Use, Transportation, and Equity

State transportation packages

Transportation packages often include funding mechanisms, new programs and projects, and accountability measures.

- Declining gas tax revenue.
- Changing priorities after historic inequities across mode, geography, and socioeconomic demographics.
- Changing climate, aging population, outdated infrastructure.

HB 2017: **Development**

2015 Package Failure

- Environmental priorities, incorrect emissions projections.
- Lacked community priorities and support.

2017 Successful Development

- Thorough community engagement and collaboration.
- Considered climate, equity, and a multimodal system.

Collaboration and Consensus

Advocates say HB 2017 had one of the most inclusive and engaging processes to date around the development of a state transportation package.

HB 2017

Funding Mechanisms

- Increased gas and weight-mile tax
- 0.5% vehicle-dealer privilege tax
- \$15 bicycle excise tax
- 0.1% employee payroll tax
- Value pricing



Equitable Funding Across Modes

When looking at HB 2017 as a whole, funding for bicycle, pedestrian, and transit projects is still just a fraction of transportation spending compared with the millions of dollars being spent on roads.



HB 2017

Programs and Projects

- Urban freeways
- Safe Routes to School
- EV rebates
- Transit funding
- Off-roadway bike/ped pathways
- Operations, maintenance
- Jurisdictional transfers

Impacts
Roadway
Projects



Megaprojects – Mega Costs

“So many compromises were made for those megaprojects and here we are, and they’re ballooned out of control, but they’re written into law.”

—Noel Mickelberry, former executive director, Oregon Walks



Impacts

**Safe Routes
to School**

Safe Routes to School

“My program has been very useful in giving students the tools they need to know how to traverse their built environment.”

—Megan Shull, SRTS coordinator, Lane County

Impacts
Public
Transportation



Transit Funding

“It has been utterly and completely transformational for our community.”

—Ian Davidson, Cherriots board vice president, regarding STIF funds





Challenges and Opportunities Moving Forward



What are other states trying?

- Retail-delivery fees, ride-hailing fees, cap-and-invest carbon pricing, indexing gas tax to inflation, urban sales tax
- Free transit for youth, seniors, disabled people
- Bicycle-ed in schools
- Social workers on transit
- GHG/VMT reduction requirements

Early Stages of the 2025 package



Campaign Briefing

Tue., May 28th
6:00-7:00PM
on Zoom

Strategize and
prep for June
4th date

Legislative Listening Tour

Location	Notes	Date
Downtown Portland	Group 1 - First Stop	Tuesday, June 4
Tillamook	Group 2	Tuesday, June 18
Albany	Group 3	Tuesday, July 16
Eugene	Group 3	Wednesday, July 17
Coos Bay	Group 4	Wednesday, August 7
Medford	Group 4	Thursday, August 8
Ontario **	Group 5	Wednesday, August 28
Hermiston **	Group 5	Thursday August 29
Bend **	Group 6	Thursday, September 12
The Dalles **	Group 6	Friday, September 13
Salem (VIRTUAL)	During the September legislative days meeting at the Capitol	Wednesday, September 25
Happy Valley	Group 1 - Last Stops	Thursday, September 26
Hillsboro	Group 1 - Last Stops	Friday, September 27

Contact

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