



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Transportation

Director's Office

355 Capitol St. NE, MS 11

Salem, OR 97301

**DATE:** March 16, 2021

**TO:** Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

**FROM:** Lindsay Baker, Assistant Director, Government and External Relations  
Oregon Department of Transportation

**SUBJECT:** Senate Bill 790 – Oregon Veterans Memorial Highway

## INTRODUCTION

Senate Bill 790, with the (-3) amendment, directs the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to install and maintain markers indicating U.S. Highway 30 as the Oregon Veterans Memorial Highway. The measure also directs ODOT to include military service seals on the markers.

## DISCUSSION

The legislature has designated a number of Oregon's border-to-border highways over the last several sessions to honor a number of veterans groups. In addition, the legislature has instituted a program by which the ODOT can install signs to honor individual police officers, firefighters, and members of the military who are killed in the line of duty. These signs serve to remind the public of the sacrifices these officers, firefighters, and members of the military, and their families, have made. ODOT must balance installing memorial signs with needed regulatory, guide, and motorist information signs that inform, guide, and warn drivers.

In October 2000, the Oregon Transportation Commission designated Interstate 205 as the Veterans Memorial Highway. SB 790 will designate a portion of U.S. Highway 30 as the Oregon Veterans Memorial Highway. U.S. Highway 30 overlaps with Interstate 84 for most of its mileage in Oregon. Interstate 84 has already been designated as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway. ODOT will work to appropriately space signs on Interstate 84/U.S. Highway 30 to lessen potential confusion or safety issues if the legislature determines that U.S. 30 is the preferred location for this memorial highway.

The (-3) amendment specifies that ODOT must seek the approval of the Federal Highway Administration, the United States Department of Defense, and the United States Department of Homeland Security prior to including the military service seals on the markers. ODOT is subject to federal regulations regarding the content of roadway signs, which includes strict language regarding including logos or symbols on memorial or dedication signs. ODOT appreciates the willingness of the bill sponsor to address these concerns through the (-3) amendment.

## SUMMARY

SB 790 designates a portion of U.S. Highway 30 as the Oregon Veterans Memorial Highway. ODOT appreciates the dedication from the bill sponsor to ensure that the sacrifices of Oregon's Veterans are not forgotten and we appreciate the clarifying language offered by the (-3) amendment.

Please feel free to reach to me if you have any additional questions.