

3/25/2021 - 8:00 AM House Bill 2744 House Committee on Transportation

Not any explanation of what House Bill 2744 is concerning jurisdictional transfer into five groups/territories within Oregon and turn state highways over to cities and counties. What does that mean for citizens? That people of Oregon can complain, comment, and/or suggest to the cities and counties instead of ODOT for our under-financed and under-maintained state highway system. What a big tangled ball of nonsense, in other words, the people of Oregon are going to be spun into phone tag to find the correct agency concerning repair, upgrade, and redesign.

Public meetings will become angry and frustrated with a big dash of confusion - scenario - this 2 miles belongs within the city boundary, and the next five miles belongs to this county, and the next 20 miles belongs to another county and so on and so forth. Then Region 1-5 will have to come to some kind of a quorum of agreement- what a ever living mess of which governmental entity is going to be responsible for what resources including dollars to get the project funded.

You all in government either have too much time on your hands to change what has been working for decades or a century as 'roads' is in the Oregon Constitution. Or some lawmaker or agency executive saw the scheme codified in another state and thought it would be a good idea to dissolve the present ODOT highway system for roads.

Moreover, counties and cities have a hard enough time trying to prioritize and appropriate sufficient funds to maintain the local government roads already in their jurisdiction. I strongly oppose HB 2744 as written and the entire concept of dissolving ODOT responsibility of maintaining highways in which the Oregon Constitution intended.