



TINA KOTEK
GOVERNOR

August 28, 2025

Director Kris Strickler
Oregon Department of Transportation
355 Capitol St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Director Strickler,

Oregonians depend on safe roads to go about their lives. We all know we have to keep our roads safe through winter weather, rain, and wildfire threats. This is our fundamental transportation responsibility. To meet our obligation to Oregonians, we are working hard to address your agency's maintenance and operations funding crisis.

The imminent threat of service cuts demands urgency and investment, and it is the reason I called a special session. My office – in partnership with legislators, local partners, and key stakeholders – designed Legislative Concept 2 to provide the necessary maintenance and operations funding to prevent these harmful cuts from happening.

Assuming success in the special session, I am hereby directing you and the Oregon Transportation Commission to prioritize spending new revenue to the State Highway Fund on maintenance and operations at every possible opportunity. In line with this direction and your adopted budget, I expect that all new gas tax revenue coming to the state from Legislative Concept 2 will go directly toward road maintenance and agency operations. This direction should guide the development of future budgets and priorities in the next biennium and beyond.

I know the agency and the Commission are aligned with me in this effort. You have been clear with me and the public that your primary need for additional resources is to fund the core operations of the agency.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment as we work to solve the crisis at hand and plan longer-term solutions for other transportation needs.

Sincerely,

Governor Tina Kotek

cc: Members of the Oregon Transportation Commission

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