



**Comments of Andy Duyck
Washington County Chair**

Regarding HB 3231

Historically the state of Oregon has struggled to find a stable path to meet transportation investment needs. The state has relied on the existing finance options, which consists of the gas tax and fee structure associated with the purchase and licensing of vehicles.

While this historic funding mechanism has served past investments, and may meet the immediate transportation investment needs for a state transportation package today, the state should consider other funding options that go beyond current funding constraints and planning associated with significant, future transportation investments.

As Chair of the Washington County Board of County Commissioners I want to make it clear I am 100 percent behind a comprehensive transportation package in 2017 that can measure up to a generational investment in Oregon transportation infrastructure. I also believe the template described in HB 3231 is one approach worth considering for longer-term investments. HB 3231 provides an opportunity to challenge the existing system and creates the potential for a conversation. Specifically, HB 3231 provides a template for examination of how a future north-south route in Western Washington County could be developed.

I am well aware the framework in HB 3231 presents' concerns at the regional, and perhaps state level regarding a balance between land use decision making and transportation planning. Within my own Board of Commissioners there is debate that is likely also taking place within other communities across the region. From my perspective we should view this debate as an opportunity to discuss and challenge our assumptions to identify other paths forward.

The bill provides a conceptual framework for a funding mechanism with the use of tolling and the formation of a district structure represented by multiple local interests. We do not believe that this bill will create land use conflicts or damage the environment. It is simply the first step toward a conversation.

As Chair of the Washington County Board of Commissioners I believe HB 3231 deserves recognition for an out-of-the-box thinking and that it should be considered in this Committee.

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