

# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

January 12, 2001  
9:00 AM

Hearing Room D  
Tapes 1 – 2

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rep. Bruce Starr, Chair  
Rep. Alan Brown, Vice-Chair  
Rep. Richard Devlin  
Rep. Jeff Kropf  
Rep. Donna Nelson  
Rep. Diane Rosenbaum  
Rep. Joanne Verger  
Rep. Cliff Zauner

**MEMBER EXCUSED:** Rep. Jeff Merkley, Vice-Chair

**STAFF PRESENT:** John Leon, Committee Administrator  
Kate Campeau, Committee Assistant

**MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:** Adoption of Committee Rules  
Oregon Department of Transportation Overview

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These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

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<u>TAPE/#</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<b>TAPE 1, A</b>		
004	Chair Starr	Calls the committee to order at 9:01 a.m.
<b><u>ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE RULES</u></b>		
128	Chair Starr	Committee members introduce themselves. <b>MOTION: Moves to ADOPT the proposed Committee Rules dated 01/10/01.</b> <b>VOTE: 8-0</b> <b>EXCUSED: 1 – Merkley</b>
150	Chair Starr Chair Starr	<b>Hearing no objection declares the motion CARRIED.</b> Comments on his vision for the committee.
<b><u>OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OVERVIEW</u></b>		
239	Grace Crunican	Director, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Gives background information on herself.
320	Crunican	Submits and reviews written material giving an overview of ODOT ( <b>EXHIBIT A</b> ).
411	Crunican	Submits written material ( <b>EXHIBIT B</b> ) and continues testimony by reviewing the seven departments within ODOT.
<b>TAPE 2, A</b>		
007	Crunican	Continues testimony by discussing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Condition of pavement. Approximately 78% of the roads are in fair or better shape.</li><li>• State funding.</li><li>• “1999 Accountability Bills” (<b>EXHIBIT C</b>).</li></ul>

170	Crunican	Continues testimony by discussing the state budget and the State Transportation Improvement Project (STIP).
246	Chair Starr	Asks how often the commission meets.
233	Crunican	Responds that she believes it is once a month.
280	Rep. Devlin	Asks about the coordination between the MPO and local commissions.
290	Crunican	Responds that the MPO is the Metropolitan Planning Commission which is a designation from the federal government based on the size of the city and over 200,000 population is designated an MPO. Indicates that there is good coordination between the two.
380	Crunican	Continues discussing the state budget and the STIP.
424	Chair Starr	Asks how much a \$.01 increase in the gas tax would raise in equivalent weight mile.
432	Crunican	Notes that if there was a \$.02 tax, ODOT would have \$24 million a year to put toward our system.
<b>TAPE 1, B</b>		
004	Rep. Verger	Asks whether ODOT emphasizes preservation more than modernization.
007	Crunican	Responds that this is correct. Continues discussing the budget.
050	Rep. Devlin	Asks Ms. Crunican if she foresees any short-term change in the federal outlook.
052	Crunican	Responds that she does not.
060	Rep. Devlin	Comments that he would like the committee to discuss the issue of current service level at a future meeting.
069	Chair Starr	Agrees with Rep. Devlin.
075	Crunican	Responds that the Endangered Species Act requires them (ODOT) to adapt construction.
105	Rep. Verger	Asks how this effects the funding of bridge construction.
108	Crunican	Responds that ODOT does not receive extra money to do it comply with environmental requirements.
111	Rep. Rosenbaum	Asks what ODOT's take is on the public's knowledge of deterioration of roads and bridges.
122	Crunican	Responds that the public wants service but does not want to pay for it. Notes that 88% of the population voted against the gas tax.
169	Rep. Rosenbaum	Comments that the public needs to be educated regarding transportation issues.
175	Crunican	Notes that the gas tax is always voted down.
187	Rep. Brown	Asks whether federal transportation funds are directed for specific use.
196	Crunican	Responds that there are various categories of funds for specific projects.
229	Rep. Brown	Comments on structural problems of bridges in Lane County thirty years ago.
247	Crunican	Explains the value of keeping old bridges in good repair rather than having to build new bridges.
260	Rep. Kropf	Asks what the status is on the issue of building an interstate freeway or tollway through central Oregon from state line to state line.
267	Crunican	Responds that a study is being done on this.
277	Rep. Kropf	Asks about keeping the freeway rock base for future use.
300	Crunican	Responds that federal money requires federal guidelines and federal statutes do not allow reusing freeway rock base.

380	Rep. Nelson	Asks if there is presently a program and designated funds for safety corridors that have been identified in the budget.
384	Crunican	Responds that there are priority funds for highest safety areas.
444	Rep. Nelson	Asks what impact there is on the safety corridor (Newberg-Dundee) from the Spirit Mountain Casino.
457	Crunican	Responds that ODOT is working with the Grand Rhonde Tribe on this issue.
460	Rep. Nelson	Asks where the problem is in obtaining a Newberg-Dundee bypass.
490	Crunican	Responds that they are working on this process.
<b>TAPE 2, B</b>		
040	Joan Robinson	Legislative Counsel Office. Testifies on the role of the office and the work they do for legislators.
195	Chair Starr	Adjourns the committee at 10:45 a.m.

Reviewed By,

Kate Campeau,  
Committee Assistant

John Leon,  
Committee Administrator

**EXHIBIT SUMMARY**

- A – Oregon Department of Transportation overview, written material, Grace Crunican, 14 pp**
- B – Oregon Department of Transportation overview, Oregon map, Grace Crunican, 1 p**
- C – Oregon Department of Transportation overview, written material, Grace Crunican, 3 pp**