

NEWS

From Representative

PETER DeFAZIO

Fourth Congressional District, Oregon

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONGRESS REACHES AGREEMENT ON HIGHWAY BILL

DeFazio Leads Oregon Delegation to Secure Over \$2 Billion For State

WASHINGTON, DC-U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Springfield), Ranking Democrat on the Highways, Transit and Pipelines Subcommittee today announced that he and his colleagues have come to an agreement on legislation **including over \$2 billion for highway and transit projects in Oregon over the next five years.** The legislation, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), HR 3, is a five-year, \$286 billion federal highway and transit funding bill. DeFazio played a key role in crafting and negotiating final approval of the legislation, and securing optimal funding for Oregon under the bill.

"SAFETEA-LU will be the signature accomplishment of the 109th Congress," said DeFazio. "If there was anything the Congress could do to increase the economic productivity of the country, create jobs and improve commerce, this is it. The funding through this legislation will invest money Americans have paid at the pump to create tens of thousands of jobs, putting Americans to work to improve the nation's bridges, roads, highways, and mass transit. This is real investment in real time. Some projects funded under this legislation can start as early as this year. *Most importantly, this is money we do not have to borrow.* We are borrowing \$1.3 million a minute to run other government programs. We do not have to borrow a single penny to build and repair these roads, bridges, and highways and move Americans more efficiently about the country."

DeFazio and a handful of his House colleagues have been working with their Senate counterparts over the past few months in a conference committee to resolve differences in the House and Senate-passed versions of the highway bill. This final piece of legislation is expected to be approved by the House today. It will then be approved by the Senate and sent to the president to be signed into law.

DeFazio Boosts Oregon's Overall Funding: As Ranking Democrat on Highways, Transit and Pipelines Subcommittee and a main negotiator on the final version of SAFETEA-LU, DeFazio worked to increase overall funding for Oregon. Total five year funding level for Oregon under current law is at \$1.7 billion. When the new highway bill was first crafted, Oregon was slated to receive \$2 billion, an increase of only \$300 million over current law—an increase far below a majority of states. DeFazio was able to change the funding formula to boost Oregon's funding to \$2.21 billion, that's an increase of \$510 million. As a result, Oregon will receive more gas tax dollars than it contributes to the Federal Highway Trust Fund.

DeFazio Helps Fund State's Critical Priority: A new category was added to this long-term highway and transit funding bill, called Megaprojects. To receive funding, a Megaproject must have national and regional significance. Under this new category, DeFazio secured \$160 million for reconstruction of bridges on I-5 in Oregon and \$40 million for reconstruction of bridges across the state.

The Bill is Paid-For: The funding for TEA LU is fully paid-for through the Federal Highway Trust Fund, which is sustained with gas tax receipts. It does not add to the federal deficit.

HIGH PRIORITY HIGHWAY PROJECTS:

| Project Description | Dollars |
|---|----------------|
| Agness Road, Curry County | \$2,000,000 |
| Coos Bay Rail Bridge | \$8,000,000 |
| Middle Fork Willamette River Path, Springfield | \$3,000,000 |
| Weaver Road Extension and Bridge Project | \$17,000,000 |
| U.S. 101 Slide Repair, Curry County | \$2,895,200 |
| Pedestrian improvements at Port of Brookings Harbor | \$600,000 |
| Hwy. 199 Safety Improvements, Josephine County | \$2,000,000 |
| Interoperable communications equipment for emergency and incident response - Linn, Benton, Lane, Douglas, Coos, Curry and Josephine Counties. | \$9,000,000 |
| Hwy. 99E/Geary Street Safety Improvements, Albany | \$1,002,000 |
| Construction of collector street and railroad crossing Highway 99W, Corvallis | \$814,000 |
| I-5 Beltline Interchange | \$20,000,000 |
| Albany Wooden Trestle Bridge | \$7,500,000 |
| Add turn lane and adjust signal, U.S. 20/Airport Road, Lebanon | \$837,000 |
| U.S. 199/Laurel Road Intersection | \$2,880,000 |
| Improvements Bandon-Charleston State Scenic Tour on Randolph Road | \$4,200,000 |
| I-5 Interchange at the City of Coburg | \$8,000,000 |
| Eugene Train Depot | \$1,000,000 |
| U.S. Hwy 20 Landslide | \$1,000,000 |
| Construct Passing Lanes on U.S. 199, Josephine County | \$1,827,000 |
| Hwy 34/Corvallis Bypass | \$2,100,000 |
| North Bend Waterfront District Bike/Pedestrian Improvements | \$992,000 |
| Siuslaw River Bridge, Florence (also McCullough) | \$4,250,000 |
| Albany Multimodal Transit Station Path | \$520,000 |
| U.S. Hwy 199, California | \$1,000,000 |

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| Upgrade U.S. 101 and Utility Relocation, Gold Beach | \$200,000 |
| ODOT archeological repository at UO Natural History Museum | \$2,500,000 |
| Culvert Repair in Sweet Home | \$130,000 |
| Construct Bike/Pedestrian Path, Powers | \$440,000 |
| Rogue River Bikeway/Pathway, Curry County | \$600,000 |
| Delta Ponds Bike/Pedestrian Path, Eugene | \$2,880,000 |
| TransPacific Parkway Realignment Project | \$350,000 |
| Construct Turn Lane on Gateway Boulevard, Cottage Grove | \$90,000 |

HIGH PRIORITY TRANSIT PROJECTS:

| Project Description | Dollars |
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| Lane Transit District, Bus Rapid Transit Progressive Corridor Enhancements | \$2,477,586 |
| Lane Transit District, Buses | \$2,985,714 |
| Rehabilitate Building at Albany Multimodal Transit Station | \$1,273,904 |
| North Albany Park and Ride | \$796,191 |
| Corvallis Transit | \$1,234,096 |
| Josephine County Transit Buses | \$170,186 |
| High Priority Projects - Total Dollars: | \$118,587,640 |

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS:

| Project Description | Dollars |
|--|----------------|
| I-5 Bridge Repair and Replacement (Megaproject) | \$160,000,000 |
| Replacement and Reconstruction of State Maintained Bridges in the State of Oregon (Bridge Discretionary Earmark) | \$40,000,000 |
| Oregon Short Haul Intermodal Projects | \$5,000,000 |
| Cognitive Impairment Study (UO) | \$1,000,000 |
| Domestic Streetcar Demonstration Project, Portland | \$4,000,000 |
| LTD Loan Cancellation for Defective Vehicles | \$1,032,594 |
| Lane County - Bus Rapid Transit, Phase 2 | \$1,000,000 |

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| plus \$31,000,000 authorization | |
| University Transportation Center for Portland State University (in partnership with UofO, OSU and OIT) | \$16,000,000 |
| Study on Effects of HID Headlight Glare on Driver Performance | \$1,000,000 |
| Additional Projects - Total Dollars: | \$229,000,000 |