



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1300 NW Wall Street, Bend, Oregon
(541) 388-6571

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

DESCHUTES COUNTY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

7:00 AM

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2025

ZOOM MEETING

A legislative work session was held on Friday, June 6, 2025 at 7:00 a.m. via Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform.

Deschutes County Attendance:

x	Commissioner Anthony DeBone, Chair	x	Nick Lelack, County Administrator
x	Commissioner Patti Adair, Vice Chair	x	Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator
x	Commissioner Phil Chang	x	Whitney Hale, Deputy County Administrator
	Kristie Bollinger, Property Manager		Tim Brownell, Director Solid Waste
	Sara Crosswhite, Director 9-1-1		Steve Dennison, County Clerk
x	Chris Doty, Director Road Department	x	David Doyle, Legal Counsel
	Charles Fadeley, Justice of the Peace	x	Stephen Gunnels, District Attorney
	Peter Gutowsky, Director Community Development	x	Holly Harris, Interim Director Health Services
	Geoff Hinds, Director Fair & Expo		Deevy Holcomb, Director Community Justice
	Heather Kaisner, Director Public Health		Sean Kirk, Manager Veteran's Services
	Bill Kuhn, Treasurer	x	Tom Kuhn, Public Health Program Manager
	Scot Langton, Assessor		Tania Mahood, Director Information Technology
x	Kevin Moriarty, Forester		Elizabeth Pape, Internal Auditor
x	Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager		Lee Randall, Director Facilities
	Kim Riley, Senior Assistant Legal Counsel	x	Robert Tintle, Chief Financial Officer

	Kent van der Kamp, Sheriff		Aaron Wells, Undersheriff
	Heather Herauf, Procurement Manager		Daniel Kieffer, Budget & Financial Planning Analyst
	Cody Smith, Assistant Director Road Department	x	Brenda Fritsvold, BOCC Executive Assistant
Others Present:			
x	Doug Riggs, Director NW Policy Advocates		Corey Barber, Outreach Director NW Policy Advocates
	Emma Innes, Associate NW Policy Advocates		

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair DeBone called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m.

2. Commissioner Updates

Responding to Commissioner Adair, Doug Riggs said that **SB 1153** has not yet passed. A Dash 10 amendment has been proposed, which Riggs will discuss later in the meeting.

Commissioner Chang thanked legislators for their efforts, and also thanked Doug Riggs for his work on behalf of Deschutes County.

3. Updates from NW Policy Advocates

Riggs noted that hearings and work sessions can now be posted with only an hour's notice, so they are amid the end-of-session rush. There is panic surrounding the revenue forecast, although the May forecast matches the December forecast. Uncertainty around federal funding is a contributing factor.

Two key issues have garnered the attention of the federal government. First, the state of Oregon has been declared a sanctuary state. Second, Healthy Oregon uses Medicaid dollars from the General Fund for healthcare for undocumented individuals.

\$544 million in funds are non-obligated and can be put away in the Rainy-Day fund, noting that a three-fifths vote is required to take money out of the Rainy-Day fund. Some legislators are asking for some of these dollars to fund key programs, such as community corrections. AOC, AFSCME and law enforcement agencies are pushing for community corrections funding, which may come in the form of a Christmas tree bill. Additionally, disappointment looms over early learning funding.

Riggs provided a summary of key budgets that are still pending, including but not limited to, Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Oregon Department of Transportation, wildfire and capital construction.

Riggs emphasized that key funding saves money in the long run.

SB 1153 imposes new procedures and review processes for water transfers. The Dash 10 amendment exempts municipal organizations from the bill. The agricultural community has expressed great concern over this bill.

SB 75 is still being held hostage, as well as wildfire bill **SB 83**.

Responding to Commissioner DeBone, Riggs said that some committees are having informational hearings but cannot consider or pass bills at this time. Related to the transportation package, Riggs is disappointed there is still no announced legislative accountability package for ODOT. It is crucial for transportation funds to be spent responsibly and efficiently. Aside from the gas tax, legislators are searching for other funding sources. Riggs noted that many ODOT employees are working remotely, and there has been a push by legislators to get them back in the office.

4. Review Bill Tracker Report by Department

Robert Tintle provided a brief update on **HB 3962**, the Transient Lodging Tax bill. The House Committee on Revenue is still discussing this bill. Tintle summarized three proposed amendments to this bill. Riggs noted that City of Bend Manager Eric King and Mayor Melanie Keebler recently testified on this bill.

Lelack met with Eric King last night. The City of Bend is concerned about shelter funding under **HB 3466**. If this bill does not pass, shelters will need to be closed. Riggs again emphasized that cutting funding to crucial programs will increase costs in the long run.

Chris Doty spoke about the transportation package, noting that the focus should be maintenance and operations. Riggs said that if an agreement cannot be reached soon, it could be postponed to a special fall session.

Commissioner DeBone said that COIC would like entities qualified to receive direct funding to include transit *operators*, not only transit districts.

Riggs is hopeful that legislators come up with a transportation package that can gain bipartisan support, meeting in the middle relative to new taxes and transit funding.

Commissioner Adair said that adding a gas tax of up to 40 cents per gallon will hurt low-income earners, and Oregon already leads the nation with high gas prices. Riggs said the intent is to spread the cost around, and to possibly include extra fees for EVs and EV chargers. Commissioner Chang noted that Oregon would be in the middle of the pack for gas taxes if they added 40 cents per gallon.

Responding to Commissioner Adair, Riggs said that **SB 702** is scheduled for a hearing on Wednesday, June 11th in the Finance and Revenue committee.

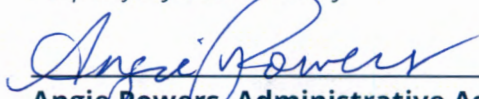
Riggs reported that **HB 3069** is in Ways and Means. Amendments requested by Deschutes County were incorporated by Representative Kropp. A work session has been scheduled for today.

Commissioner DeBone reported he will be at the East Cascade Works Consortium Board Budget Meeting next Tuesday or Wednesday.

Next Meeting: The next virtual legislative update meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 13 at 8:00 a.m.

Adjourn: Chair DeBone adjourned the meeting at 7:32 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:


Angie Powers, Administrative Assistant