



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) announced today it will hire Kris Strickler to become the next Director of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). This move signals more of the failed status quo by the OTC and is a huge disappointment.

Oregon's transportation system faces urgent challenges. The transportation sector is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon. For most households, the cost of owning and operating a car is their largest household expense after housing. Too few households have good alternatives to driving. In addition to money, people are paying in hours of time as they sit on buses that are delayed or in traffic that is not moving. We also have hundreds of deaths on our roadways each year--near daily tragedies that we must not tolerate.

We can address these challenges by giving people safe and reliable alternatives to driving alone. More trips made by walking, biking and public transit will increase the capacity of our transportation system while at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Using our roads more efficiently is also the most cost effective approach to responding to funding that is stretched thin. Expanding great transportation options will give households better choices for where to live and how to spend their money. We only need to shift about ten percent of trips from single occupancy vehicles to other choices to make a big difference and preserve capacity for the vital movement of goods.

There is nothing in Strickler's experience that suggests he is prepared to lead this shift. He played a key role in the largest failed highway expansion project the Portland area has seen--the Columbia River Crossing. He offered virtually no substance in his

presentation to a group of stakeholders who got to meet with three top candidates for the ODOT job.

The OTC ran a recruitment process that attracted talent from around the nation. There were two excellent choices for the job. Today, the OTC failed to select either of these candidates.