



# PRESS RELEASE

**Senator Betsy Johnson**

**Representative Brad Witt**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Molly Woon (503) 986-1700

Michael Cox (503) 986-1904

## Transportation Projects Will Bring Jobs

*Over \$17 million in new funding awarded in Senate District 16*

SCAPPOOSE – Senator Betsy Johnson and Representative Brad Witt announced the list of local projects that have been selected for funding by the Oregon Transportation Commission through the ConnectOregon III program approved by the 2009 Legislature.

“I have been a consistent champion for transportation infrastructure investments,” said Senator Johnson (D-Scappoose). “This is the third time the Oregon Legislature has provided significant funding for non-highway projects. I participated in every step of the ConnectOregon III process; from the Legislature, through the project prioritization, to the final selection committee. I wanted to make sure that rural Oregon projects were supported. I am delighted Northwest Oregon had such outstanding success with our well thought out proposals.”

“These three projects will create new jobs, both in short term construction and over the long term in an area that continues to suffer from stubbornly high unemployment,” said Representative Witt (D-Clatskanie). “As a legislator, I have fought for transportation investments that will both create jobs and make the infrastructure improvements our state needs to compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. These projects meet both of these goals.”

Three of the projects selected for funding are:

- **17<sup>th</sup> St. Dock Reconstruction** - \$3.8 million to reconstruct the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Dock near downtown Astoria, creating an expected **160 long term jobs**. The U.S. Coast Guard,

tour boats, the Columbia River Maritime Museum and recreational craft use the dock, which must be replaced with a steel and concrete structure to accommodate future use.

- **Portland and Western Rail Road Columbia River Corridor Upgrade** – \$4.7 million will be used for essential improvements needed to ensure the movement of trains between Linnton and Port Westward in rural Columbia County. Portland & Western Railroad will match 25% of the project’s cost.
- **Teevin Bros. Land & Timber Company Rail-to-Barge Facility** – This \$3.6 million project will create a much needed rail-to-barge link at the Teevin Bros. terminal on the Columbia River in Rainer. The project, which is expected to create **10 long term jobs**, will capitalize on the terminal’s strategic location by adding additional rail siding, a transloading and cross-docking area, handling equipment, and barge/ship moorings.

ConnectOregon III, which authorizes \$95 million in lottery-backed bonds for multimodal projects and \$5 million for rural airports, was passed by the Legislature in 2009 as part of HB 2001, the Jobs and Transportation Act. ConnectOregon III aims to improve the state’s transportation system by funding non-highway projects such as rail, marine/ports, aviation, and public transit.

Eighty-one applications requesting more than \$201 million were first reviewed by advisory committees as well as regional Area Commissions on Transportation. Forty-one applicants were ultimately selected to receive more than \$97 million in funding.

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