



Paris Achen/Capital Bureau

Gov. Kate Brown talked to reporters Thursday in her Oregon Capitol offices about the revenue impact of proposed transportation plans.

## Tax package failure could pave way for transportation bill

Few weeks left to a craft deal

By PARIS ACHEN  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The failure of a state revenue-raising package this legislative session could “clear a path forward” for passing a long-awaited transportation funding bill, Gov. Kate Brown said Thursday.

“When you’re tackling multiple very difficult issues and revenue reform, that’s something that legislators and governors have spent decades trying to address,” Brown said. “When ... move it off to the side, it certainly clears a path forward for transportation.”

Brown said passing the transportation package is now her administration’s focus for the less than three weeks remaining in the session.

“We are working very closely with the legislative work group, and folks have rolled up their sleeves and are working hard as well. Everyone is moving in the right direction.”

Brown made the comments shortly before holding a nearly four-hour meeting with leaders on the legislative work group that authored the package of road congestion and maintenance projects and increases in taxes and fees.

The tax increase means the Legislature’s Democratic majority will need Republican votes to obtain the constitutionally required three-fifths majority vote to raise revenue for the transportation projects.

Republicans and Democrat leaders continue to negotiate specifics of the plan. But Republicans have stopped short of promising their votes.

There is no guarantee of GOP votes, said Jonathan Lockwood, a spokesman for Senate Republicans.

Republicans are decrying a bill headed to the House floor today that would slash a tax break for “pass through businesses — generally small businesses whose profits are taxed as their owners’ personal income.”

The proposal would bring in nearly \$200 million in additional money to help offset the state’s \$1.4 billion revenue shortfall.

Democrats say the tax exemption, a bargain with Republicans in 2013, has failed to stimulate job growth and benefits wealthy professionals such as hedge fund managers, lawyers and doctors.

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# Planning Commission approves new Cannon Beach Academy site

Traffic, tsunami concerns were considered

By BRENNNA VISSER  
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — The Cannon Beach Academy is one step closer to opening this fall in the former Preschool and Children’s Center building.

The Planning Commission voted unanimously and with little discussion Thursday to grant a conditional use permit to the kindergarten-through- second- grade charter school. Any exterior changes or modifications still need to be reviewed by the Design Review Board before the school can acquire a building permit to move forward with the project, City Planner Mark Barnes said.

Although establishing the academy in Cannon Beach has been in the works for more than four years, the last-minute need to find a new location came when the board received an estimate of \$150,000 over the \$90,000 they budgeted for construction costs at the original location on Sunset Boulevard.

An almost identical request was approved by the Planning Commission in May 2015 and



Submitted Photo

The Cannon Beach Academy hopes to open a charter school at the former Preschool and Children’s Center.

again in January at 171 Sunset Blvd.

David Vonada, of Tolovana Architects, said at the meeting most of the work will be small safety improvements, like improving exit signs and making door handles Americans with Disabilities Act accessible, and expects few to no external changes.

“This building was just meant to be,” Vonada said.

While the city, which owns the property, did assess the building to be structurally sound and found that a charter school would not impact traffic significantly, the former Children’s Center is not without flaws.

The site is technically within the tsunami inundation area, according to a map done

for the charter school because of the site’s proximity to evacuation routes and access to higher ground.

“With the old elementary school, it’s a 20 minute walk to higher ground, and you would have to cross a bridge,” Barnes said.

Because the school has opted to use a parent rideshare system instead of a school bus, Commissioner Joe Bernt raised concerns about possible congestion in what is already a narrow parking lot with only one exit.

“We will have a half-hour drop-off window to give students extra time,” Cannon Beach Academy Executive Director Amy Moore told the Planning Commission.

Other aspects, such as additional ADA requirements or fire code improvements, are to be determined later by the city’s building official.

The city is still negotiating with academy representatives on a three-year lease, which is the amount of time academy board members expect to outgrow the space. The school has also hired two teachers, Dawn Jay from Aloha and Melissa Kennedy from Klamath Falls, Moore said.

As of Thursday, 40 students were enrolled to start in the fall, Moore said.

**‘Getting to a transportation package would be something people would be really happy to see come together this session.’**

Jonathan Lockwood

“Getting to a transportation package would be something people would be really happy to see come together this session,” Lockwood said.

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