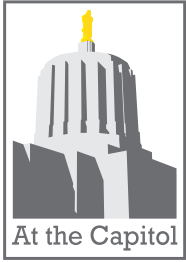


State releases final ODOT improvement recommendations

Agency lacks strategic vision for the future and accountability measures

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The state's executive department released final recommendations for reforming weaknesses at the Oregon Department of Transportation Monday. The recommendations resemble a draft released March 24 and first reported by the Pamplin Media Group/EO Media Group Capital Bureau.



The improvement plan by the Department of Administrative Services is based on the findings of an independent consultant's management review of the agency, finalized Feb. 1. New York-based McKinsey & Co. concluded there is an unclear governance structure for ODOT and the Oregon Transportation Commission, which sets policy for the agency. The agency also lacks a strategic vision for the future and accountability measures, the consultants found. DAS recommended that the governor and Legislature convene a work group to clarify the governance structure and

report back Nov. 1. ODOT should seek the expertise of a management consulting company to develop a management plan for the agency that would define structure, roles and measurements for success. The agency also should seek out a consulting company to address waste in its fleet and facilities programs and convene procurement experts from other state agencies to review potential improvements for contracting. Other recommendations call for an agency communications plan, alignment of legislative standards with the realities of the agency's operations and an audit by the Secretary of State's Office specifically on ODOT's management of funds in the highway program. Finally, DAS recommends conducting another management review in 2020 to identify the progress of any changes. "I fully embrace these recommendations and wholeheartedly believe that ODOT will be a stronger organization as a result of them," said ODOT Director Matt Garrett in an email to staff. "Moreover, I commit to working with the (Oregon Transportation) Commission, ODOT employees and our customers to implement these recommendations in a trans-

parent and accountable manner." Agency leadership will assemble a steering team to help guide implementation of the recommendations and track and report on progress, which also will be published on a webpage, said Assistant ODOT Director Travis Brouwer. The agency also plans to develop a strategic business plan, Garrett wrote in his email to employees. Gov. Kate Brown ordered the management review to help allay some lawmakers' concerns in preparation for consideration of a transportation package worth hundreds of millions of dollars this session. The revenue to pay for projects would likely come largely from a hike in the state's gas tax and registration fees.

The state paid McKinsey \$1 million to conduct the management review on a short timeline, so findings would be available before the end of the legislative session. Yet deadlines for finishing work products in the improvement plan are after lawmakers would likely vote on a transportation package. A work group of lawmakers plans to recommend accountability measures for ODOT later this week. Those accountability measures could be added to the transportation package legislation.

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The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

BRIEFLY



Six counties to end use of cyanide traps

ENTERPRISE (AP) — Six Eastern Oregon counties say they are halting the use of cyanide traps to kill coyotes to protect the state's wolf population.

The Baker City Herald reports that the USDA Wildlife Services and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife came to the agreement to stop the use of cyanide traps in six counties after the accidental killing of a gray wolf in February. Officials say cyanide traps to control predators will no longer be used in Baker, Wallowa, Union, Umatilla, Morrow and Grant counties.

Officials from both agencies say they are working to improve communication between the entities and share information on future wolf sightings.

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Nine hotels accused of false advertising ahead of solar eclipse

PORTLAND (AP) — Officials are investigating nine Oregon hotels that travelers claim cancelled their room reservations and inflated prices ahead of a summer 2017 solar eclipse. More than a dozen people have filed complaints against nine hotels to the Oregon Department of Justice, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported on Monday.

Consumers said they had made advanced reservations at the Stafford Inn in Prineville for about \$170 a night on TripAdvisor. The reservations were later cancelled because of new ownership or rebranding claims. The rooms' price was updated to \$600 to \$635 a night. "The very same thing is going on all over the place," said Stafford Inn manager Laurie Romine before she declined to comment further on the issue. Other hotels that have been the subject of complaints are in cities such as Salem, Lincoln City, Baker City, Otter Rock and Keizer.

Department spokeswoman Ellen Klem said the hotels could face a \$25,000 fine, but she doesn't think it's likely because the problem appears to be widespread.

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Police ID wanted man from Portland protest, arrest him

PORTLAND (AP) — Portland police have arrested a man wanted in connection with last week's protests outside a city council meeting after officers observed him filming them as they had coffee.

The Portland Police Bureau said Monday that 45-year-old Philip Stan Schaefer was booked into the Multnomah County Jail on charges of second-degree robbery and coercion on Sunday, five days after he was filmed by a local TV station getting into a shoving match with another man during the protest. Police say Schaefer's charges come as a result of that encounter. Schaefer is the seventh person arrested in connection with the March 29 demonstration. Demonstrators were protesting the death of a 17-year-old teenager who was fatally shot by a Portland police officer in February. A grand jury last month found the shooting justified.

Man found dead after celebrating 30th birthday

MOLALLA (AP) — Authorities say a 30-year-old man who was last seen celebrating his birthday at a party has been found dead in a creek in unincorporated Molalla. The Clackamas County Sheriff's Department says Monday that the Keizer man was reported missing around 1:30 p.m. Sunday. He had been celebrating his 30th birthday on Saturday evening and had not been heard from since. Deputies and dive team members began an extensive search and found the man's body in a creek near Highway 211. The death is being investigated but no foul play is expected. The man's name is being withheld until his family can be notified.

OSP help rescue ducklings from storm drain

SALEM (AP) — To protect and serve and ... rescue ducklings? An Oregon State Police trooper got some attention Monday after he helped pluck two ducklings from a storm drain where they were stranded over the weekend.

The agency says in Twitter and Facebook postings that the mother duck and her 10 ducklings were crossing the street at an intersection in Salem Saturday when two ducklings were swept into the drain. City workers removed several storm grates and a manhole cover so the trooper could reach the ducklings with a net.

State police say the other eight ducklings successfully navigated the drain pipe and emerged in a nearby canal. They were reunited with their mother and siblings and waddled away apparently unharmed.



In this Saturday photo, Oregon State Police Sr. Trooper Hunter, of the agency's fish and wildlife division, holds a duckling he helped rescue from a storm drain in Salem.

Corrections

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

EAST OREGONIAN

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Intervals of clouds and sunshine	Cloudy	Cloudy with a shower or two	Mostly cloudy, a shower or two	Mostly cloudy, a shower or two
PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
62°	45°	69°	45°	63°
45°	45°	47°	44°	34°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
64°	43°	70°	45°	64°
43°	45°	45°	45°	37°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	51°	32°
Normals	59°	38°
Records	83° (1944)	18° (1918)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date Trace
Normal month to date 0.14"
Year to date 6.27"
Last year to date 3.94"
Normal year to date 4.10"

HERMISTON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	56°	34°
Normals	62°	38°
Records	83° (1992)	19° (1972)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date Trace
Normal month to date 0.07"
Year to date 4.93"
Last year to date 2.70"
Normal year to date 3.18"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:30 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:27 p.m.
Moonrise today	12:48 p.m.
Moonset today	2:59 a.m.

Full	Apr 10
Last	Apr 19
New	Apr 26
First	May 2

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Mostly cloudy today; an afternoon shower in spots across the north.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Times of clouds and sun today. Cloudy tonight.

Western Washington: Mostly cloudy today with a shower in places. A little rain tonight.

Eastern Washington: Sun and some clouds today. A passing shower in the north tonight.

Cascades: Mostly cloudy today. Cloudy tonight with a shower in spots.

Northern California: Partly sunny today; pleasant in central parts. Overcast tonight.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	58	47	c	54	46	sh
Baker City	54	34	pc	62	38	c
Bend	58	42	c	63	42	c
Brookings	60	48	pc	61	48	c
Burns	55	34	pc	64	41	c
Enterprise	52	35	pc	59	40	c
Eugene	63	45	c	63	46	c
Heppner	60	42	pc	67	43	c
Hermiston	64	43	pc	70	45	sh
John Day	58	41	pc	67	46	c
Klamath Falls	61	38	pc	63	40	pc
La Grande	56	39	pc	63	43	c
Meacham	54	39	pc	62	43	c
Medford	69	46	c	69	47	c
Newport	58	46	c	55	45	r
North Bend	61	49	c	59	47	c
Ontario	58	38	pc	70	47	c
Pasco	62	43	pc	69	45	c
Pendleton	62	45	pc	69	45	c
Portland	62	46	c	60	47	sh
Redmond	62	41	c	67	42	c
Salem	61	46	c	61	46	c
Spokane	53	39	pc	60	44	c
Ukiah	56	36	pc	65	41	c
Vancouver	62	47	c	62	47	sh
Walla Walla	62	48	pc	68	50	c
Yakima	60	42	pc	65	45	c

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	72	53	c	67	48	pc
Hong Kong	77	69	s	78	70	s
Jerusalem	74	56	s	79	54	s
London	60	41	c	57	42	c
Mexico City	85	51	s	86	53	pc
Moscow	44	34	pc	50	41	pc
Paris	64	45	c	60	41	c
Rome	66	46	pc	66	46	t
Seoul	68	45	pc	59	51	r
Sydney	70	63	sh	71	62	sh
Tokyo	59	50	s	64	56	pc

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Wednesday
Boardman	NE 4-8	NNE 4-8
Pendleton	ESE 4-8	SE 4-8

UV INDEX TODAY

0	3	5	4	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 2017

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

Shows: s-showers, r-rain, t-thunderstorms, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice

National Summary: Rain and gusty winds will reach the Northeast states today. Showers and spotty thunderstorms will affect northern Florida. A new batch of rain will break out over the Plains with snow over the Rockies.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 96° in McAllen, Texas Low 7° in West Yellowstone, Mont.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	54	31	pc	61	38	s
Atlanta	81	61	pc	75	49	t
Atlantic City	67	53	t	63	48	s
Baltimore	76	51	t	69	51	s
Birmingham	49	33	pc	60	42	pc
Boston	56	42	pc	69	51	pc
Boise	56	42	pc	67	46	t
Boston	44	39	r	44	37	pc
Charleston, SC	86	63	s	82	64	t
Chicago, IL	70	47	sh	77	53	pc
Cleveland	60	42	r	55	47	pc
Dallas	84	52	s	70	47	s
Denver	39	24	sn	55	30	s
Detroit	55	40	c	50	38	s
El Paso	75	47	s	70	45	s
Fairbanks	45	27	s	42	22	c
Fargo	55	30	pc	50	26	pc
Honolulu	85	73	pc	85	72	pc
Houston	88	60	s	75	51	s
Indianapolis	61	46	sh	61	37	r
Jacksonville	84	67	pc	89	60	c
Kansas City	56	42	r	53	37	r
Las Vegas	72	51	s	76	56	pc
Little Rock	81	59	s	61	43	pc
Los Angeles	76	55	s	81	56	s

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Louisville	72	53	pc	77	42	t
Memphis	82	63	s	69	44	t
Miami	89	76	pc	88	77	pc
Millwaukee	52	38	c	42	35	r
Minneapolis	60	38	pc	53	34	pc
Nashville	78	58	pc	74	43	t
New Orleans	82	70	s	80	55	t
New York City	72	51	r	65	42	s
Oklahoma City	72	45	t	61	38	c
Omaha	59	43	c	57	35	r
Philadelphia	74	53	t	68	48	s
Phoenix	82	57	s	85	60	s
Portland, ME	40	34	sn	41	32	pc
Providence	50	40	r	52	38	pc
Raleigh	83	56	s	78	63	pc
Rapid City	50	27	pc	53	28	s
Reno	67	40	pc	73	45	pc
Sacramento	76	49	c	77	51	pc
St. Louis	65	52	c	59	40	r
Salt Lake City	49	32	pc	59	43	pc
San Diego	68	56	pc	73	57	s
San Francisco	65	51	pc	69	53	pc
Seattle	59	47	c	57	46	r
Tucson	78	47	s	85	54	s
Washington, DC	78	55	t	71	54	s
Wichita	55	44	r	57	37	r