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## **Coba's Capitol Comments**

The beginning of the '17 legislative session brings optimism and hope along with a foreboding gloom to the Capitol in Salem as legislators gear up for a 6-month grind with a target date for Sine Die on June 23. Thousands of policy bills await further consideration while a \$1.8 billion shortfall to maintain current service levels means potential cuts to services or added new revenue through taxes and fees. Although the constitution allows until July 10, legislative leadership is has put out an aggressive timeframe to wrap-up the people's business two weeks earlier.

For ACEC members a number of issues have been identified with more likely before the last of 3,500 bills are introduced and printed. So far there have been 1,531 bills introduced and ACEC is tracking each one through the process.

Key issues for '17 include:

**Transportation funding package** - The Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization will meet this evening at 5:30 to begin the public process of developing a package. The co-chairs Sen. Beyer and Rep. McKeown will introduce four workgroups that will focus on highway, paving and resiliency with a 20 year vision in 5-year increments; congestion in the metro area; transit, peds, public safety routes to school and a fourth workgroup on all other modes. These workgroups will be chaired by a leader of the JCTPM and will set their own schedules. They are expected to finish their work in late February and then the full committee will begin to craft a package for release in April. The full JCTPM will meet on Monday and Wednesdays at 5:30 P.M. in hearing room F. The website is here: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2017R1/Committees/JTPM/Overview>

**ODOT Management Review** - As part of the transportation package the review will be presented to the OR Transportation Commission Thursday, Feb. 2 at a special OTC meeting in Salem. The \$1 million report from McKinsey is here: <http://pamplinmedia.com/documents/artdocs/00003568616612.pdf>

**SB 382; QBS defense** - ACEC has had two meetings with local government representatives to discuss qualification based selection. Some local governments in Oregon have been unsure of how and when to use QBS and have expressed frustration and are seeking changes to the law through SB 382. ACEC is committed to further educational opportunities to assist local governments fully understand the law. As currently written the law allows total local control which is sometimes misunderstood by local governments. We will stay engaged and continue to press for more education, not major changes to the current law as is proposed in the first

draft of SB 382. Text of SB

382: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2017R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB382/Introduced>

**Canadian Comity Bill:** Pacific NW Economic Region representatives from Canada are pushing the bill that is yet to be introduced. Sen. Roblan and Rep. Boone are co-sponsors and are active in PNWER. Roblan is incoming President and annual meeting will be held in Portland. The bill would amend ORS 672.103 and state that OSBEELS may waive the Practical Engineers Exam and reduces the threshold from 25 years to 8 years of licensure in another state, territory, DC, or foreign country. The Canadians presented to OSBEELS three weeks ago. The same bill was introduced in 2015 and was not passed.

**Bills to make outsourcing of public contracts more difficult** have been introduced. We will work closely with many different groups to vigorously oppose these concepts.

**Know your legislator** - ACEC members should make it a priority to know your home legislators to make sure they understand your strong support for a transportation package and opposition to others issues of concern. ACEC members are encouraged to be active this session. We will need your involvement to play offense on transportation funding as well as defense on a number of bills. Please take a moment to identify your legislator at this site and to write an email letter of introduction and offer to help them with issues of engineering and/or others as well. All politics is local and the ability to create and maintain a relationship with legislators is key.

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## UPCOMING

- March 22 – Day at the Capitol, Salem
- April 23-26 – [ACEC National Annual Convention & Legislative Summit](#), Washington, DC
- May 3 – Successful Technical Writing with Jan Spryidakis
- May 9 – ACEC | ODOT 2017 Partnering Conference
- June 21 – Networking Day golf tournament, Langdon Farms

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## ACEC Washington Upcoming Events – ACEC Oregon members receive the member rate!

- Feb 23 – [Effective Price Negotiations with Public Entities](#)

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## COURTESY ANNOUNCEMENTS



- Feb 23 – [53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Engineers Week High School Program, Portland](#) – *Sponsors needed!*
- Feb 28 – [10<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Willamette Valley Future Engineers Day Event, Keizer](#)

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Comments? Questions? Please e-mail [mwebber@acecOregon.org](mailto:mwebber@acecOregon.org) or [adavis@acecOregon.org](mailto:adavis@acecOregon.org).

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**Upcoming events:** [http://www.acecoregon.org/calendar\\_list.asp](http://www.acecoregon.org/calendar_list.asp).

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