

Senator Meek Town Hall  
January 4, 2025

Senator Mark Meek held a Town Hall Meeting which I attended. Senator Meek was very instrumental in helping us get \$3,000,000 for the district this past session. I attended that Town Hall as did probably about 20 constituents from his district. Several from our district area.

Senator Meek talked of the committees he is on and also some of the issues he plans to take on. He stated that he wanted to get an audit of the employment department. He co-chairs the Veterans and Emergency Management Committee, Senate Revenue Committee, he is a member of the Clackamas Caucus which was effective in getting funding for several Clackamas County issues including ours.

He talked of ODOT and mentioned that it would take 100 years to fix all the bridges in the state and there is no money. He is watching this issue from committee. He was instrumental in getting the \$218,000,000 to pay for the Wildfire expenses from the fires that have already taken place.

Senator Meek is looking for and wants to work on the Estate Tax. Currently, it is at \$1,000,000. He commented that most houses today are worth that much and more so that number needs to be raised.

He wants to work to change the ratio of Tri Met and where it goes. It does not cover the whole county. Metro plays a big role in this issue. There are people who live in areas of this county that do not drive, there is no bus service and there is no way for them to get to work or medical appointments and so on. In other words, make it easier for people to use.

Some comments from the attendees were to work on student loan forgiveness that would go into critical need professions like doctors, nurses and others.

There was a big discussion on ODOT and how much money is being wasted on low ridership for both buses and light rail. It was suggested that he do an ODOT audit as well.

Ginny Van Loo, Director