



SID LEIKEN

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Senator Chris Edwards, Chair
Senate Special Committee on Sustainable Transportation

Chair Edwards and Members of the Committee:

I write today in my role as both a County Commissioner representing the urban and rural region in and immediately around the city of Springfield and as the Co-Chair of the Association of Oregon Counties Transportation Committee. I also sit on the bike-ped subcommittee of the Oregon Transportation Committee and the Road User Fee Taskforce created by the Oregon Legislature.

I have examined HB 2281 and the –B7 amendment and urge you to hold a worksession on this measure such that it can be heard on the floor of the Oregon Senate as soon as possible.

In a nutshell, HB 2281 and the –B7 amendment contain the elements of a transportation package that I have been hoping this legislature would address. It is unfortunate that we are just now getting to see this level of detail, but I submit that the elements contained within the measure have been talked about for the better part of the past year.

I urge you to consider the following points in your contemplation of this measure:

- Both Lane County and Washington County sought voter approval of a local vehicle registration fee within the past eight months due to the clear need for transportation infrastructure revenue. Maintenance of this investment is far and away the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars.
- The measure dedicates half of the state's share of revenue to address bridge projects. Lane County has the highest number of bridges in Oregon and a recent study identified 30% of them as structurally deficient
- The bonded projects identified in Region 2 would address exceedingly important safety issues that our intergovernmental partners regularly place on our jointly adopted federal agenda. These projects are very hard to fund, and this measure is a unique opportunity for funding that would improve documented safety issues for our residents and visitors.

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY