

The State of Oregon plans to pump money we don't yet have into a project that will only make our biggest problems worse. We're falling further and further behind on reaching our greenhouse gas emissions goals? Let's solve that problem by penalizing non-polluting transportation (by taxing bicycle sales) and encouraging driving personal vehicles - giving them more lanes in an attempt to allow them more speed. We do not have the money for this, and the scores if not hundreds of pages outlining the fees to pay for laying down this new asphalt are very fine hairsplitting to show how someone else will pay for it.

If you raise my registration fees on the 1985 car that my husband and I drove fewer than 2,000 miles in the last year and a half, perhaps I'll just get rid of it. I understand the logic of penalizing efficient vehicles if you are just trying to recover the gas tax that their drivers do not pay, but this bill twists into knots to try to achieve some semblance of fairness. If you want to actually be fair, tax all wheeled vehicles on their weight times miles traveled. There are weigh stations for interstate trucks, personal vehicles would be assessed at registration, and if you require an odometer on my bike, I can install that and pay my share. That odometer would cost more than I would pay in weight\*mile road use and damage fees.

Do me a favor, don't fix the roads. I'll buy an inexpensive used mountain bike to handle the potholes that heavier vehicles create and enlarge, and I will not burden the transportation system, the air quality monitors, or increase the state's health care burden.

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