

Dear Oregon Transportation Committee,

I am a native Oregon currently living in North Portland. I am a millennial and own a small business and often commute to areas around the Portland/Vancouver metro and Willamette Valley Regions. I have worked on housing and business development projects for non-profits in Oregon and work with many low-income communities and communities of color. This transportation package does not include long term solutions and investments to account for the thousands of people moving to Oregon every year. I am not sure where you got your feedback from on this plan and only giving a three day notice for public testimony seems secretive.

Most of these allocations seem to be band-aid solutions (I-5 corridor widening). I urge you to think outside of the box, collaborate across the river to secure transportation solutions like **high speed rail** that can not only get people where they need to go quickly, it also relieves traffic congestion (carbon emissions) and creates vital economic transit hubs where businesses and affordable housing can be built and thrive. I am shocked that Washington and California are investing in this infrastructure, but Oregon seems to be behind the innovation opportunity. Please consider allocating a portion of funds to invest in high speed rail, a solution that is needed soon and for the long-term and richness of our State.

Please see Cascadia High Speed Rail corridor project that has developed detailed plans and innovative ideas on how to connect the entire Pacific Northwest.

Thank you,

Jamie Melton  
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