

HB 2017 Oregon's Transportation

Chairs, Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee

The Oregon Women's Rights Coalition commends you on the time and effort you have spent visiting every area of Oregon, listening to the needs and wishes of Oregonians and spending the time necessary to construct a transportation proposal that addresses the needs of Oregonians.

OWRC is especially grateful for the proposed funding for transit programs' stability that the proposed revenue will provide. As you know many women and children depend on public transportation and when it is not available needs are not met or individuals have a challenging time getting to jobs, school and medical appointments.

We feel the level of investment for working Oregonians earning a minimum wage, about \$20 a year, can leverage savings in many families if they can depend on transit rather than incur the cost of owning and operating an automobile.

We are encouraged by the Safe Routes to School and the investment in bicycle and pedestrian investments.

While increases in the gas tax and fees related to the purchase of automobiles might be seen by others as regressive for lower income Oregonians, OWRC sees the increase in reliable transit as an off set in the need to purchase automobiles for every day needs.

We urge you to retain all portions of the transportation package so that Oregon can adequately address the myriad needs expressed by Oregonians when you did your statewide tour. The package is balanced and thoughtful.

With the investments from this package, Oregonians can have options that are viable and many women, families and those with disabilities will no longer struggle to participate in their communities that combined make up this state we love, Oregon.

Marcia Kelley

Public Policy Advocate