

**Testimony of Eliot Rose**  
**Regarding House Bill 2770**  
**Joint Committee on Transportation**  
**April 29, 2019**



Co-Chairs Beyer and McKeown and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2770, which would permit the testing of automated vehicles (AVs) in Oregon. Metro, which represents metropolitan planning organizations on the Oregon Automated Vehicle Task Force, is committed to safe testing of AVs that advances Oregon's goals of providing safe, sustainable, and efficient transportation for all Oregonians.

HB 2770 represents a first step in adapting Oregon's laws to prepare for an automated vehicle future. The Metro Council's priorities with respect to AV legislation are to preserve local government authority to manage and plan the transportation system, as well as the access to data needed for sound planning and policymaking. We support the AV testing framework established in HB 2770, and believe that it would be further strengthened with the following changes, which are based on the -3 amendment:

**Grant local governments oversight over AV tests within their jurisdictions.** Local governments have detailed knowledge of their communities' transportation needs, and are responsible for enacting and enforcing laws that protect safety for all travelers. Local governments need to be engaged in AV tests so that they can enforce compliance with local laws, identify safety risks associated with proposed AV tests that occur in their jurisdictions, and generally ensure that AVs operate safely in the communities where most Oregonians live. Section 9(2) should be updated to direct ODOT to notify local transportation agencies of planned AV tests within their jurisdictions prior to issuing permits, and Section 5 should be updated to require ODOT to obtain approval from local governments for AV tests that are planned to occur on local streets within their jurisdictions.

**Provide public agencies with data to protect safety and advance other policy goals.** AV testing in Oregon can help the State ensure that AVs support Oregon's goals if public agencies have access to the information needed to make sound policy. HB 2770 directs AVs to preserve collision data, and we believe that Section 6 should direct ODOT to compile and share information on the location and nature of collisions – as well as additional information on AV trips, travel patterns, and traffic violations – with other public agencies in a way that protects users' privacy and companies' trade secrets. This will provide critical information to help public agencies understand the safety of AV testing, and lay the groundwork for collecting and sharing the data that public agencies across the state need to plan the transportation system and maximize the benefits of AVs.

**Prohibit the deployment of automated vehicles.** The AV Task Force agreed to focus the 2018 report that informed HB 2770 on testing in part because AVs are an unproven and developing technology that is not yet ready for deployment. In order to protect public safety, HB 2770 should prohibit the use of AVs on public roads outside of the testing framework established in the bill.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Eliot Rose  
MPO Representative on the Oregon Automated Vehicle Task Force