

Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek and members of the Committee,

My name is Joe Stenger. I am a family doctor. I live in NE Portland, an easy bike ride from the site of the hearing at PCC. I am co-chair of MCAT's Transportation Committee - that is Mobilizing Climate Action Together.

I attended today's sessions and was impressed by your stamina. I appreciate you making time for these listening sessions.

Colorado is doing it. Oregon can too!

On May 31, the NYT ran an article about how Colorado is revamping its transportation system to reduce tailpipe pollution. "The Transportation Commission of Colorado adopted a formal rule (in 2021) that makes the state transportation agency...demonstrate how new projects, including highways, reduce greenhouse gas emissions. If they don't, they could lose funding. Within a year...Colorado's DOT had canceled two major highway expansions...and shifted \$100M to transit projects." Minnesota's 2023 transportation package of almost \$8B has a similar requirement for projects that add road capacity to show emissions reductions. [https://www.nytimes.com/2024/05/31/headway/highways-colorado-transportation.html?unlocked\\_article\\_code=1.xE0.CEV.VPkjQG3YRhiW&smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/05/31/headway/highways-colorado-transportation.html?unlocked_article_code=1.xE0.CEV.VPkjQG3YRhiW&smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare)

ODOT is in dire straits financially. Oregon has gotten hefty Federal grants for its megaprojects, but that funding is

dependent on taking out bonds that are creating debt for our children and grandchildren to pay. A road user fee is the best option to adequately fund our transportation system. Such a fee will need rural and low-income adjustments. This would supplement the current gas tax as it fades away. Congestion pricing will also be needed for some routes, but should be designed to reduce emissions, not to maximize revenue. A tire tax should be implemented to charge higher rates for those who choose to drive bigger and more dangerous vehicles.

Every decision you make that reduces emissions means that fewer of our neighbors will suffer and die from respiratory and other illnesses worsened by our use of gasoline and diesel.

If we stop widening highways and stop the resulting increase in driving, we can shift money to other modes of travel and create the safe, rapid, clean, and equitable transportation system of the future that we all need.

We are counting on you to make courageous and innovative decisions. Thank you!

Joseph Stenger MD