

Members of the Oregon Joint Transportation Committee,

My name is Sacha. I am a senior student of Urban and Public Affairs at Portland State, public transportation advocate, and currently work in the transportation industry. I'm writing to express my desires for the upcoming transportation funding package.

My studies and work have highlighted the importance of accessible transportation options, and how our communities benefit from it. I have seen firsthand the flexibility and freedom public transit offers to those with mobility issues, the elderly, or those who otherwise cannot drive. Equity and sustainability are central to our identity as Oregonians—ensuring we center those principles in our legislation is essential supporting all Oregonians and hitting our climate goals. In the interest of brevity, I've listed out the priorities I wish to see from our state leaders:

1. Funding for public transportation agencies, active transportation initiatives, and projects to improve pedestrianization.
2. An immediate stop to all roadway expansion projects statewide—these projects do not solve congestion, and only worsen our climate impact.
3. Funding for commuter rail across the Willamette Valley that integrates with interstate train services and public transportation in cities.
4. Prioritization of public transportation and pedestrian facilities on the Interstate Bridge project, and a minimization of any roadway expansions as part of the project.
5. Income-based taxes on road users who can afford to pay including a VMT tax, congestion pricing on bridges and urban highways, vehicle registration fees based on weight, and moving violation fines that tax wealthy violators more.

All of these solutions can help us achieve our climate goals, fund accessible, equitable, and quality public transportation, and tax road users fairly, not placing a burden on poor road users. Thank you for your time and consideration, I hope you will align your legislative priorities to support public transportation.

Best regards,

Sacha Gripman (*she/they*)

—

Student of Urban & Public Affairs at PSU CUPA
Customer Service Team Lead and Administrative Assistant at Portland Streetcar, Inc.

—

sgripman@pdx.edu