

Dear legislators,

I am not opposed to driving, I am not looking to ban cars. All I'm asking is that we stop subsidizing this mode of transportation that has directly led to the unsustainable environmental, fiscal, and social situation we find ourselves in.

It is time for drivers to finally pay their fair share.

We should be making investments in **bikes** and **transit**, especially e-bikes and micro-vehicles, which are an absolute game-changer around urban (and suburban) mobility.

We do not have the money to maintain, let alone expand, our roads. And this doesn't even factor in externalities, like stormwater management, health impacts due to pollution and sedentary lifestyles, time lost due to congestion, traffic violence, etc.

Let's reduce the cost of one of the state's biggest liabilities by prioritizing freight and commercial travel on our arterials. We should have prioritization for freight and transit. There is no option for freight, and transit is the most responsible transportation choice, so we should encourage those modes, while forcing personal vehicles to endure the actual cost of their decision in terms of financial cost, or at least a longer trip. There are many strategies for this that I'm sure many at ODOT are familiar with.

I suggest imagining our state in 20 years. What would be required to look back on 2025, and say, "investing that much in bikes and transit was a mistake." I struggle to come up with a possibility.

On the other hand, it's very easy to see how we could be reflecting in 2045 that "we should have invested in bikes and transit" and "we should not have expanded that freeway."

Legislators, please put our state on the right side of history in this historic funding bill, by making long-overdue investments in bikes and transit, prioritizing freight and commerce, and finally requiring anyone driving to pay their fair share of the direct and indirect burden they put on our finances, health, and environment.

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