

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to urge you to build our transportation system to be safer, greener, and more accessible to everyone in our communities. We have an opportunity with this transportation package to innovate and solve problems, rather than allow the status quo to continue.

ODOT's focus has traditionally focused on freeways, while many communities lack safe bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure or reliable public transit options. With this funding package, let's do better. Let's provide options for the approximately one in four Oregonians who can't drive by investing in alternative modes of transportation.

While we're at it, let's ease congestion by investing in infrastructure that makes it possible not to drive in the first place. Imagine if every Oregonian, not just those in major metropolitan areas, could choose to leave their car at home because biking, riding the bus, walking, or scooting was a viable and safe option.

Finally, let's address the impact that gasoline vehicles are having on our environment. Let's invest in clean electric technology for cars, commercial vehicles, and busses. Let's incentivize individuals and businesses to electrify their modes of transportation to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

In short, let's quit acting like the gasoline-powered vehicle the only thing we can invest in, especially when those past investments have created unsafe and inaccessible conditions for so many Oregonians. Investing in options should be our default--not something it takes a coalition of concerned citizens to push for. We should be actively pursuing solutions that promote the cleanest, most affordable, and safest options. Which, in all cases, will be something other than cars.

Please do right by Oregonians and our planet. Please prioritize options and the people who need them. I look forward to seeing a spending package that is as diverse as our population.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Marianne Nolte