

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

My name is Sue Mulvihill. I am 67 years old and I have lived in Eugene, Oregon for almost 30 years. There was a time when I kept an ODOT map thumbtacked to a wall and carefully highlighted my trips across the map to the interesting places I drove to all over the state. It was well crisscrossed! Also in my past are the days that I would plan out a 25 mile walk on rural roads that I found pretty, and then walk that route in a day. Those days are behind me: I don't enjoy long driving trips much and find aggressive drivers in large pickups/SUVs kind of frightening. That and I'm 20 years older and have 2 cobalt-chromium knee replacements, great for the 400some miles that I've walked so far this year, not so good for 25 mile/day walks.

I would like to share with you my thoughts on how to raise money for ODoT budget items. I feel strongly that this should NOT be a gas tax increase. I would encourage you to consider a plan for taxing mileage instead, and perhaps a poundage tax for those heavier large pickups/SUVs, and electric vehicles: those pounds put more wear and tear on roads and bridges! I would suggest that while mileage on vehicles is checked, you weigh them and measure them: oversized bumpers and huge side mirrors make some vehicles unsafe for pedestrians and road bullies to other vehicles! Additionally, put a tax on rental cars, either up-front as flat rental tax or as a mileage tax at turn-in: as long as Oregon doesn't have decent public transportation to get tourists to their destinations, thousands of them will get off their flights and rent a car to start making trips to Crater Lake and the Coast. Let's have them pay for the wear and tear on Oregon infrastructure.

If I could afford an electric vehicle, I would have one and gladly pay the weight tax for it! As it is, I traded my gas-guzzler van for a smaller van that gets better gas mileage: it mostly sits in my driveway since I endeavor to keep my carbon footprint small. I take the LTD bus to work 3 days out of 4 most weeks. It works very well for me aside from the vehicles that insist on making turns through the crosswalks when pedestrians have the "walk" signal on my walks to and from the bus stops. I would love to have more options to get to the coast on weekends: I've taken the Lane County Link bus to Florence twice and would gladly pay a tax on my ticket if there was a passenger car added to the Coos Bay Rail Line. I don't care if it goes slow, so do I these days!

Thank you for the work you do and for considering my suggestions.

Sue Mulvihill