

Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek, and committee members,

My name is Karen Smith, and I have lived in Corvallis since 2022 and in Oregon since 1989. My family has been car-free since 2013. My children are now 7 and 10 years old, and I am concerned about their safety as they shift to more independent active transportation beyond the confines of my cargo bike. I'm also concerned about their uncertain future due to climate change, and transportation plays a role in that as well. The transportation projects Oregon chooses to fund will affect today's children both now and in future generations.

After years of car-first transportation funding and road expansion, I want Oregon to shift to funding active/alternative transportation projects and maintenance of the roads we already have.

As an example, near our home in South Corvallis, OR-99W is a stressful street for us to bike on but is the most direct route for us to travel to most places in Corvallis. Recently, plans were developed that would include physically separated bike facilities, roundabouts, and other features that would make the road safer and lower stress for active transportation users. The plans are there, but the funding isn't. What a difference this type of street design would make both on this stretch and many others throughout Oregon! My dream is that each time an ODOT road through a city is repaved, it could also be reconstructed with a design that is optimized to encourage use of active transportation and make it safe for people of all ages.

Transit, including intercity travel, is also a challenge. Transit options are incredibly limited and often inconvenient if not impossible. For example, I just recently considered doing a day trip from Corvallis to Salem on a Saturday, and there was no transit option that I could find. I'd love to see rail or at least a bus that runs often enough to be a viable alternative to car travel on the I-5 corridor, and I hope to see transit becoming a more viable way to travel for more Oregonians everywhere within and between cities. If we want an equitable transportation system, transit is key - People of all ages and abilities can ride a train or bus.

If we make changes that allow people to get around without cars, then we can build cities with less parking. In addition to making cities more attractive, this will also make housing more affordable which is something Corvallis and other cities in our state desperately need.

With efficient rail/transit and safer streets for micromobility users, we can decrease use of cars and improve human health, road safety, and the environmental and economic sustainability of our transportation system.

Until we have shifted our transportation culture, **funding needs to be designed to incentivize active transportation and transit.** Fees based on vehicle weight and/or vehicle miles traveled, use of tolls, and the gas tax are all options.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Karen Smith