

**With Respect and Gratitude, Co-Chairs McLain, Gorsek,
Committee Members:**

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Here's three key points for fair and sustainable transportation funding
serving all Oregonians: Funding Solutions, Equity, Priorities

1. Comprehensive Funding Solutions:

- Road User Charges: Implement a statewide road user charge program, similar to OReGO, of which I myself voluntarily belong, based on miles driven to ensure all drivers contribute fairly to maintenance and improvement.
- Delivery and Rideshare Fees: Introduce fees on delivery services and rideshare companies to address increased wear and tear on roads, given the rise in e-commerce and shared mobility services.
- Vehicle Weight-Based Fees: Charge fees based on vehicle weight given the greater impact heavier vehicles have on road infrastructure.

2. Equity and Accessibility:

- Support Low and Fixed-Income Residents: New funding mechanisms, such as progressive taxation, lower per mile rates, and exemptions, to ensure people are not unfairly burdened.
- Invest in Public Transit and Active Transportation: Expanding and improving public transit and active transportation options, such as biking and walking paths, which can provide affordable and sustainable alternatives to driving, benefiting all Oregonians, especially those who are transit-dependent or unable to drive.
- Off-street paths are essential for active transportation networks, providing safe, accessible routes for walking and biking, which I myself use in Eugene for access to nature and for health.

Therefore, Oregon needs policy language that includes bike/pedestrian facilities in major capital projects, ones that align with federal policies so they're more competitive and can leverage better funding opportunities, and also increase investment in programs like Oregon Community Paths to meet safety, climate, and equity goals.

3. Statewide Priorities:

- Maintenance and Safety: Addressing the maintenance backlog, including seismic reinforcements for over 700 bridges, is critical for the safety and reliability of our transportation system. Investing in Safe Routes to School, community main streets, and multi-use paths will enhance safety for all road users.
- Climate Goals: To meet our climate action goals, we must prioritize funding for projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This includes supporting the transition to electric vehicles, which I did myself in 2019, building compact, climate-friendly neighborhoods, and overall promoting public and active transportation.

In conclusion, transportation funding needs to:

- Be equitable and consider the needs of low-income and fixed-income residents.
- Encourage transportation choices that improve our climate, safety, and local economies.
- Align with our statewide goals to reduce vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Prioritize maintenance, safety, and investment in public and active transportation.

In closing, let me express my respect and gratitude – to all of you – for your present and future efforts to fund transportation.