

Dear Chairs, Co-Chairs and Committee Members, thank you for an opportunity to speak before you today.

My name is Carmel Snyder, I'm a constituent and a resident of Eugene and I work for AARP Oregon.

According to the census, by 2034, people 65 and older will outnumber children younger than 18. This is a permanent demographic shift that is not unique to our state. But Oregon is at the forefront of this change as the fastest aging state in the west. The fastest growing segment of the population is people older than 85 years.

Transportation is a critical link that connects people to their community, providing them with access to jobs, health care, as well as community and social activities.

I have seen a change in my own mobility over the past couple of years. Access to public transportation is available in my community, though limited. I see some of our older neighbors or those with limited mobility struggle to get to work, volunteer jobs, vital medical appointments and continue to fully participate in their community.

I am not alone. We're living longer and working longer and while I currently drive, I worry about what will happen when I must will rely on the transportation options in our community to avoid isolation and help me thrive as I age.

As you consider what the next transportation package looks like we call on you to focus on people and their needs and preferences.

- We need investments in transportation infrastructure and services that expand options and create equitable, livable and healthy communities.
- We need to make our streets safe for everyone of all ages.
- We need access to reliable, affordable and accessible transportation options. This means investments in public transit and special transportation for senior and people with disabilities.

- And, we call on you to prioritize complete and connected communities, better coordination between transportation and land use, and a human centered transportation system.

Thank you for your commitment to listen as you consider recommendations for investing and expanding transportation options for all Oregonians and making Oregon age-friendly and livable for people of all ages and abilities.

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