

Dear Joint Committee on Transportation,

I am writing to voice my concerns for prioritizing budget concerns for Oregon State Transportation Department.

I do not have suggestions for additional revenue for the transportation department at this time. All vehicle users of our roads should help pay for the usage/maintenance of the state's roads (including federal, county, and city roads).

I do feel there are priorities to consider in what is important. Safety is a priority for users of our state transportation system. It is vital to maintain Oregon's existing infrastructure. If necessary maintenance to achieve this is delayed, the future costs would be prohibitive to even begin to bring it back up to standards. An example is California's past negligence in maintaining their roadways.

From a personal experience, please keep funding for our rest areas. Not only do they give out-of-area visitors an impression of our state, they provide the safety rest stops travelers need, while also posting information about local attractions (an indirect benefit bringing in tourist dollars). While it is tempting to privatize rest areas, this is not an image that I feel Oregon should project.

Keep funding for city and county jurisdictions as well. If these local agencies had to take on the additional funding burdens, it would lead to vast inequities across the state.

It is a difficult task to apportion revenue dollars to all needs of the state. Please try not to cut state employees so much that is detrimental and compromising to the safety and maintenance of our roads.

Thank you,

Sincerely,
Catherine K. Henrichs
Jackson County citizen