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Mr. Chairman; Ms Chairman, members of the committee:

I am Richard Paul, I live at 1523 Hillcrest Drive, Burns, Oregon. I am here to represent Harney County residents. I am an appointed member of the SEACT South East Advisory Council on Transportation. I do NOT represent SEACT. I have been a member for the past three years. Because I am appointed by the County Court, I feel I need to attend the City Council meetings as well as the County Court meetings to adequately represent the opinions of the citizens of Harney County.

What I have learned is the citizens of Harney County focus on four main transportation issues:

Safety; the issue of highway 20 between Burns and Bend. The road way is narrow. The paved apron outside of the white line is about 18 inches: the gravel shoulder is about 36 inches. I am using approximations, as I did not get out and make certain measurement, the shoulder is too small. It is visible why the car with a hot muffler started the fire in 2017 on dry grass. There is just no place for a vehicle to safely stop outside the lane of traffic. Not only is the shoulder narrow, in some places the shoulder drops off steeply, making a very difficult place to stop. We need more uniform standards for safe shoulders. Right now, there is No room for a vehicle to safely pull off the lane of traffic should an emergency occur.

Traffic movement: there is no additional lanes for passing between Bend and Burns. It is a 130-mile trip that has no passing lanes. Now you probably are getting out your crying towels, but when Interstate 84 is closed for weather or fires most of the semis use Highway 20 to transverse eastern Oregon. The truckers travel 60 miles per hour while cars can legally travel at 65. You see the natural conflict, and no place to pass means that passing occurs in dangerous areas. Personal issue.

Health: We live in frontier Oregon, with a limited health facilities. Our hospital is a level 4 on a scale of 5 for critical care facility. Which in reality means that any major health issue is referred to Bend. If it is serious emergency issue, the usual procedure is the stabilize and transfer to Bend, generally by air. This means continuing health issues are taken care in Bend. Our issue is the rest stop called Brothers Oasis. It is the pit toilet rest area. It is 40 miles east of Bend, a convenient stop from Bend St. Charles when you have just been through chemo infusion or trice weekly kidney dialysis. It is four pit toilets, without hand sanitation, no water so liquid on the floors comes from users and sometimes without toilet paper for sanitary use. This is an abuse of the public. When I appeared at the May 5th meeting ODOT they thought it was a facility that had been given to the parks department. They thought incorrectly. This facility needs to be replaced with a modern, safe and sanitary building and general rest area.

Tolling: The issue is tolling to improve the maintenance of the roads. Yes the road tax is not keeping the with costs of maintenance, but we have not been very creative in accessing new revenues. We have decided to have electric cars by 35, but no thoughts on how we are going to be collecting fees for road maintenance. We have lots of cars traveling through Oregon which are electric and Oregon collects not one cent from any of them for use of our infrastructure. Harney county residents are concerned about how we can plant and harvest our crops. If we have to use electric vehicles the technology must

improve drastically. We can not have a tractor run out of power and then have 8 hours to recharge the machine. We need to have machines which will be available for use for 24 hours per day. What does that have to do with tolling. We still need to have road surfaces that can transport our products to market and we need not to have additional costs for a competitive market. Tolling would just be one more cost for products.

Frontier Oregon needs creative solutions to treat the transportation system. We do not need to have old ideas replayed. We need to have a safe travel lane; passing lanes for highway 20 between Bend and Burns; we need healthy rest areas, and thoughtful solutions to help market our products with current technology. We have 8 Universities which receive funds from the general fund of Oregon, plus Willamette University just across the street from the capital. There must be young energetic minds that can put forth some reasonable solutions. It is most of those students who will benefit from their collective thought processes in the future.

Thank you for your time and attention.