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Co-Chairs and Members—thank you for the chance to testify.

Welcome to Central Oregon, the VMT capital of the universe. Even though everybody here owns a Jeep Rubicon, at least everyone here also owns a Tesla.

It is always fun to talk transportation, because it always inspires futurism. We will absolutely need zero-emission hydrogen-fuel-cell commuter flights to and from Portland; we will absolutely need clean-hydrogen-powered transit linking RDM and downtown Bend; we'll need train service from Portland through the Deschutes Canyon; and surely we can find Eurostyle ways to shuttle people to Mt. Bachelor. I advocate all.

But this round is not about that. I think it is about the very opposite of that—getting useful, usable, secure and reliable money into underappreciated infrastructure that serves neighbors and relatives with limited means and mobility.

It is about the way transportation is incremental. Land use planning and investment today determine the shape and evolution of everything tomorrow.

My own personal story has to do with transit culture. Portland's Tri Met, bless them, after the era when Commissioner Erik Sten did business from the back of the Broadway bus, for some reason gave up on making transit cool. Transit can be cool! And here, Cascades East Transit has a very cool vibe! A bus trip from Redmond to Bend can mean a 20-minute, full-bus conversation about life and everything, involving the driver, junior-high students, and unhoused travelers. This vibrancy is worth supporting!

One hears complaint that transportation money has too many strings attached, too much oversight. As one friend, a municipal officer, put it, "\$500K with fewer strings beats \$1M with ODOT over-managing!"

So please put flexible, reliable funding into the hands of a smart community with a cool vibe, to continue laying groundwork for the highly-connected sub-region we can become.

Thank you.

Sam Lowry