

I attended a portion of the in-person public hearing on September 13, 2024 and wanted to provide written comment regarding transportation funding and safety from my personal perspective within the allowed 48 hour window post meeting.

Funding sources – Recent ODOT presentations by leadership staff propose an expanded list of variety of potential funding sources and I am concerned that this strategy may be too costly and complicated to try to stand up and be reliant on (great example is tolling implementation and road usage charge program). ***Encourage the legislature to urge ODOT to also consider simplified funding structure proposals.*** Considering that all Oregonians, our visitors, freight and business benefit from the transportation system whether it is being able to drive, walk, bike, or take a bus on it.....or get or receive services, food, supplies from others on it....all Oregonians, our visitors, freight and business should fund the system. Seems like general sales tax model on all goods and services may be the most considerate, reliable, and equitable form of funding, rather than using a state fuel tax. Many states utilize a general sales tax to fund transportation (and other) needs and some states index this tax. Not sure what is going to happen at the federal level.

Safety – ***Consider encouraging a much more robust enforcement effort for drivers, bikers, and pedestrians.*** There are numerous safety solutions we can build into our infrastructure but we need to consider the human factor and maybe consider enforcement and privilege to mitigate safety concerns in lieu of funding additional safety features. Increased/improved enforcement, significant fines/penalties, and rigorous licensing system (driver and biker) (look at western European systems for good examples) can have a dramatic effect in terms of safety improvements.

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