

Hon. Committee Members:

I am Dan Keeley. I farm in the Saint Paul area of the Willamette Valley, so reliable and cost effective transportation is essential to my life and business. Thank you for taking the time to talk with and get comments from a large slice of the population. My opinions on appropriate priorities for the state system updates follow:

1. Establish a long term funding system and strategy. Gas tax is still important and must be indexed to inflation, however, why should gas tax fund sidewalks, bike lanes and etc.? Tolls on specific roads or bridges are unpopular and in the past have been inefficient with much overhead involved in their collection. Save them for bridges and other discreet projects used by an identifiable group of drivers. Mileage taxes, a form of tolling, will however, be necessary to keep our highways properly maintained. Develop a secure phone app that people can try out that harvests existing information regarding number of miles driven. Fund other forms of transportation with other funding mechanisms or State general funds. The fact that I drive a truck to market should not mean I am forced to pay for someone else's sidewalks. If that is of benefit to the public then direct income tax money to it.
2. Reduce federal aid projects directed toward local needs. We, as a society, are no longer rich enough to ignore the inefficiency and higher costs Federal Aid projects introduce in local city and county projects. Use federal aid money for State projects.
3. Adequately fund system maintenance. Letting the roads deteriorate and then repairing them is penny wise and pound foolish.
4. Keep fossil fuel taxes high enough to discourage waste and reduce climate change but not so high as to cause massive additional expenses (and associated emissions) for replacing cars, trucks and industrial equipment. Encourage bio diesel production and use as well as electric cars.
5. Integrate land use and transportation planning to minimize climate impacts. Use transportation investments, including gas taxes for road related costs, to encourage compact cities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Dan Keeley, P.E.