

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am writing to address the ongoing issue of transit funding in our state. As Oregon continues to grow, it is imperative that we create and maintain efficient, sustainable, and safe transportation options that meet the needs of all Oregonians. To this end, I propose a solution that will address our transit funding challenges while providing substantial long-term benefits for our communities.

I urge the legislature to move forward with the implementation of tolls on our highways, a plan that seems to have been delayed or abandoned. These tolls could generate a reliable source of revenue that can be directed toward critical transit infrastructure projects, including:

1. **A transit tunnel through downtown Portland**, which would enable more frequent MAX trains and the operation of longer trains, increasing rider capacity and alleviating congestion.
2. **Completion of the SW MAX line to Tualatin**, which would extend transit access to more communities and improve connections for commuters and residents in the area.
3. **A comprehensive network of safe pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure connecting to all transit centers**, ensuring that individuals can safely and easily access public transportation. This infrastructure must be continuous, rather than the current patchwork, to truly support active transportation and transit use.
4. **Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) systems where rail lines are not feasible**, utilizing dedicated lanes and signal prioritization to ensure faster, more reliable service in underserved areas.

These improvements will provide immediate benefits in terms of accessibility, safety, and sustainability, while also promoting economic growth and reducing the environmental impact of single-occupancy vehicles. With the implementation of highway tolls, Oregon can generate the necessary funding to make these projects a reality and ensure a bright future for our public transit system.

I strongly encourage the legislature to take swift action on this matter for the benefit of all Oregonians.

Sincerely,  
Brandon High  
Aloha, Oregon