



Date: September 26, 2024

To: Joint Committee on Transportation

From: Clackamas County Business Alliance

RE: ODOT Transportation Funding

Co-Chair Gorsek, Co-Chair McLain and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

The Clackamas County Business Alliance (CCBA) is a non-profit association of business, community and government members that are committed to the economic strength of Clackamas County. CCBA directly affects policy making by leveraging the strengths of the public and private sectors to ensure the economic vitality of Clackamas County.

In general, CCBA supports transportation projects that provide efficiency and those that have multi-modal recommendations that move people and freight as well as serve the workforce region. CCBA seeks to ensure that the projects carry out their missions with fiscal responsibility.

CCBA appreciates the time this committee has spent listening to the region and looking at all the funding options. While we support the investment in infrastructure and the opportunity that it provides to encourage businesses to locate and grow within Clackamas County, our largest concern is how these funding mechanisms will affect current businesses on the congestion corridors. These businesses have already been hit hard by the pandemic and its aftermath and the goal should be to encourage new business to come to Clackamas County.

The businesses that make up CCBA have largely been concerned about basic transportation needs:

- The impact to commuters that work across the region and recruiting employees that may not be able to afford increased expenses in the region, etc.
- Low- and middle-income commuters that do not choose the times they travel.
- The lack of alternative travel options in Clackamas County.
- The lack of clarity on previous proposed tolling, without improved infrastructure, will deliver on the promise of congestion relief. Getting goods (and buyers) to market should be a top priority. Trucks must move for this to be successful, which is why we supported the I-205 Bottleneck Improvements. ODOT has said congestion will improve by 2045, but businesses and drivers need to see improvements now.
- Businesses (my membership) are tasked with finding the bottom line, creating efficiencies, and delivering products that customers want. As Oregon considers new revenue streams, we invite you to think like a business:
 1. Is this an efficient revenue model for the projects being discussed?
 2. Will it actually benefit the customer (aka, the drivers and business)?

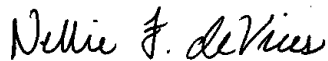
CCBA supports a 2025 funding package that:

- Includes the needs of local agencies so that Clackamas County can use additional funds to fix/build the roadways to encourage business growth and the associated housing for commercial growth
- Maintains the current infrastructure but bring relief to congestion and delays
- Includes a sustainable indexed funding source(s) for capital improvements and maintenance and operations

We're anxious to learn about financing alternatives and hope that your recommendation helps alleviate some of our concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,



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