

Good evening, Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation. My name is Laurie Dougherty. I live in Salem and am a Co-Coordinator of 350 Salem OR, the local chapter of climate action organization 350.org. As well as expressing my long-standing concern about climate change, I speak as a 79-year-old woman who does not have a car. Like many other people I rely on walking and public transit. As we just heard, from Cherriots Board President, Maria Hinojos Pressey, Cherriots is working hard to improve bus service in Salem. Also Cherriots has won grants that recently put several electric buses on the road which I am excited about as a climate activist. This is the kind of sustainable transportation option that the state should support. Rather than developing multi-billion dollar highway projects, I want Oregon to invest transportation funds in projects that enable us to carry out everyday activities in ways that are safe, convenient, connected, and beneficial for the climate. We need well-maintained sidewalks, bike paths and protected bike lanes, safe intersections and frequent public transit. Having the ability to walk, bike, skate, use wheelchairs and other mobility assist equipment benefits our health; makes for vibrant, attractive communities; and ensures that Oregon is doing its part to reduce harmful climate impacts from transportation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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