

Hello,

My name is Benjamin Platt, I am a resident of SE Portland, and both I and my wife have a challenging history with car-based transit. We are both disabled in unique ways and have been part of several no-fault accidents that make car-based travel a stressful exercise at best, and occasionally a retraumatizing and unsafe practice at worst. Those same disabilities though mean we need reliable, efficient transportation alternatives, such as cycling, buses, and walkable neighborhoods, but currently don't always have alternative transit options. These challenges are exacerbated by the intensifying effects of our ongoing and escalating climate crisis, which transportation is a hugely significant contributor to.

That is why I hope the 2025 transportation package can not only devise a system of funding to fix our suffering transportation systems that accounts for how transportation impacts human and environmental health, not just wear and tear on car roads, but also take state action to measurably reduce transportation's climate impact and the need to drive. Oregon must reduce our overall vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions.

The 2025 transportation package should commit new statewide revenues to statewide priorities rather than Metro-area freeways that actually increase VMT and GHG emissions while prioritizing raising funds for operations and maintenance, safety programs, active transportation networks, local programs, decarbonizing transit and public or paratransit. Climate and transportation are intimately connected, and healthy, safe, connected communities are only achievable if we rethink our relationship to movement and transportation, and reflect that change by funding walking, biking and public transit options rather than digging ourselves into a deeper and deeper car-reliant hole.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Benjamin Platt, 97202