

September 27, 2024

Joint Committee on Transportation
900 Court Street NE, Room 453
Salem, OR, 97301

Subject: City of Milwaukie's Priorities for the 2025 Transportation Package

Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek, committee members,

The City of Milwaukie urges the Joint Committee on Transportation to develop a transportation package that is clean, safe, and equitable. This transportation package is critical for small jurisdictions like Milwaukie to achieve our climate goals and ensure the well-being of all our communities.

Milwaukie adopted our Climate Action Plan six years ago, and subsequently declared a climate emergency requiring us to accelerate our target date to for a carbon-neutral community to 2045. Despite concerted efforts, Milwaukie's transportation emissions increased by 20% between 2016 and 2020. Transportation now represents 52% of Milwaukie's local emissions, largely attributed to gasoline and diesel used by vehicles to transport people and goods. We are implementing a number of actions to meet those targets but much of our success is beyond the control of a small city like ours. We must count on investment and priorities at the state level to do what is beyond our authority. A safe, clean, fair, and accountable transportation package is a crucial step in that direction.

In 2017 Milwaukie's City Council adopted our Community Vision that highlights what a safe, clean, fair, and accountable transportation could do for our communities. The full Community Vision can be read here: [Community Vision | City of Milwaukie Oregon Official Website](#).

To achieve our Community Vision, we strongly urge the Joint Committee on Transportation to:

CITY OF MILWAUKIE

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1. **Reduce our transportation system's contribution to climate change.** Milwaukie supports legislative actions would help lower- and fixed-income drivers by substantially expand funding for public and active transportation and ensuring people can connect to jobs and economic opportunities without needs to own a car. A transportation measure should also help build connected, climate-friendly neighborhoods, supported by safe and accessible networks for walking, rolling, and transit. Finally, a green transportation measure would expand incentives and education to transition fleets to electric vehicles.
2. **Develop a transportation system that puts safety first.** We support legislative action that prioritizes investments in safe networks for walking, biking, and rolling. This includes eliminating serious injuries and deaths; investing in protections for the most vulnerable road users; reducing our vehicle miles traveled (VMT), air pollution, and other hidden costs to public health; and protecting our environment now and for future generations. A safe transportation measure also includes increased oversubscribed safety and mobility programs, such as: Safe Routes to School infrastructure, Great Streets, Oregon Community Paths.
3. **Prioritize fair and equitable funding mechanisms** for Oregon's transportation system. The way we fund transportation should be fair for lower-income or fixed income Oregonians, who will have a harder time paying higher taxes and fees and have fewer alternatives. These funds should align with our goals to reduce VMT and greenhouse gas emissions. Finally, account for the public health and safety impacts of different kinds of transportation, by encouraging the clean, safe system we need.

We would like to underscore how vital it is for a transportation measure to prioritize clean, safe and equitable transportation system. Clean transportation is an absolutely critical part of Oregon's climate action. Ensuring these investments prioritize safety, equity, and sustainable funding are equally critical to ensuring the well-being of all Oregonians. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Katie Gavares

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Climate and Natural Resources Manager, City of Milwaukie