



September 25, 2024

Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek:

Thank you for your ongoing work to advance safe and sustainable transportation in Oregon. Move Oregon Forward (MOF) is a campaign with membership from over 25 different advocacy and place-based organizations from every corner of Oregon focused on safety, the environment, human health, equity, and justice. As the Joint Committee on Transportation transitions to the workgroup phase of policy development for the 2025 transportation package, we write to share Move Oregon Forward's key program and funding ideas.

The majority of public comments at the roadshow stops so far reflect the values of Move Oregon Forward, and often celebrate the successful programs created in HB 2017, the last major transportation package. Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation have heard from Oregonians statewide that a safe, decarbonized, and affordable transportation system is essential to meeting Oregonians' basic needs. We heard a universal theme: ensuring that every Oregonian, no matter where they live, their financial situation, or how they travel, can get where they need to go, safely, and cleanly.

Oregonians spoke about the importance of well-maintained roads that keep their daily lives running smoothly and expressed a strong desire for transportation options to get where they need to go. We also heard from many Oregonians who don't or can't drive, especially older adults, youth, and disabled community members whose independence depends on reliable transit, complete sidewalks, off-street paths, and paratransit services. Oregonians desire walkable communities in both cities and rural areas where students can safely get to school, and public transit and bike lanes are accessible for all. Rural residents also emphasized basic highway safety and maintenance improvements, better emergency routes, and reliable transit between towns. Move Oregon Forward stands ready as a partner to help you achieve this vision and translate Oregonians' input into meaningful policy and funding solutions.

We have four priorities—**safety first, climate forward, fair and sustainable funding, and accountability**—with details outlined below. We look forward to working with you as we work through this process.

Safe. Clean. Fair. Accountable. Transportation for a thriving Oregon.

Healthy, affordable, and thriving communities run on their transportation: streets that youth can cross safely to school, where older adults can get their daily exercise, people using mobility devices can get everywhere they need to go, and transit gets you there and back on time. **As Oregon considers changing how we fund our transportation system, we need to ensure that every dollar delivers on our climate and air quality goals while expanding safe, financially sustainable, and well-maintained transportation choices for all Oregonians.**

Our campaign is powered by active transportation, climate, and environmental justice organizations from across the state. We are working together to pass forward-thinking legislation in 2025 and beyond that helps to benefit every Oregonian in rural and urban communities. Join us!

OUR 2025 PRIORITIES

Safety First

We envision a transportation system that puts safety first. That means 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.

We support legislative action that prioritizes investments in safe networks for walking, biking, and rolling. **This includes increased funding for jurisdictional transfer of “orphan highways” and currently oversubscribed safety and mobility programs, such as:**

- Safe Routes to School infrastructure
- Great Streets
- Oregon Community Paths

Climate Forward

We are committed to creating the greenest transportation system possible for Oregon. By expanding access to clean transportation options for every community and context, we will reduce our transportation system’s contribution to climate change, ease congestion, and help non-drivers stay connected—all at the same time, and leaving no one behind.

We support legislative action that:

- Invests in and integrates transportation, housing, and land use planning initiatives that reduce emissions by providing compact, mixed-use neighborhoods supported by safe and accessible networks for walking, rolling, and transit
- Substantially expands funding for affordable, practical public transit and paratransit options across the state

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- Expands incentives and education to make ownership, sharing, charging, and use of electric micromobility and electric light/medium/heavy-duty vehicles affordable, accessible, and safe

Fair and Sustainable Funding

We must update and diversify how we fund our transportation system as the gas tax declines and major project funding plans remain in limbo. Our funding solutions must be designed to explicitly incentivize and invest in a greener and safer transportation system, deliver real value for our dollars, and share costs equitably.

We support legislative action to develop and advance a revenue strategy that:

- Right-sizes existing revenue streams and/or indexes them to inflation
- Diversifies our revenue sources to invest in maintenance, safety, and mobility first
- Better aligns both our future revenue **and current spending** with Oregon's climate, housing, equity, employment, and transportation goals and the needs of communities statewide

Accountability and Transparency

We advocate for accountable and transparent institutions that involve diverse voices in decision-making at every level, where people most impacted by a decision have real power to shape it. We see a disconnect today between our institutions' stated goals and where they actually put their money. To meet climate and safety targets, and to retain the public's trust, Oregon must close this gap.

We are pursuing just, equitable, and responsive transportation governance that follows through on its promises. We support legislative action to:

- Enable the Oregon Transportation Commission to be more representative and independently staffed
- Establish a fix-it-first policy to fund statewide maintenance and safety programs before investing in expanded roads
- Align investments, planning, and future transportation projects with established safety, climate, and mobility goals, including appropriate Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)-reduction targets

Sincerely,
Move Oregon Forward

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