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Mingus Mapps Commissioner **Tara Wasiak** Interim Director

May 11, 2023

Senator Lew Frederick, Co-Chair
Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Transportation
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of the Committee:

Thank you and the Road User Fee Task Force for your work on and consideration of House Bill 3297. As a local jurisdiction, we know how critical a sustainable transportation funding source is in creating and maintaining a safe, equitable and multimodal transportation system that allows people and goods to get where they need to go. Our transportation system has an ever-growing list of unfunded needs. If we don't find a way to reverse the trend of declining revenue, we face a future where we simply are unable to meet the needs of the traveling public.

We value the leadership the state of Oregon has shown in piloting and advancing a Road User Charge transportation funding mechanism. As you consider HB 3297 and the future of the Road User Charge program, we ask that you consider the following:

- The Road User Charge program should be designed to provide a financially sustainable funding source for both state and local transportation agencies.
- Just as there are currently local fuels taxes, both city and county locally defined Road User Charges must be explicitly allowed.
- Road User Charge programs should be structured in a way that allows for the future incorporation of variable pricing related to demand, climate and equity.
- As we transition to a profoundly different transportation funding mechanism, positive equity and climate outcomes should be incorporated into the foundation of the pricing and incentive structure for transportation funding.

We appreciate that HB 3297 directs the Department of Transportation to complete studies related to Road User Charges and equity, zero-emission vehicles, and medium weight vehicles. We look forward to seeing the recommendations resulting from these studies and we request that a robust set of local



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agencies and community stakeholders are involved with these studies and the development of final recommendations.

Thank you again for your work toward a financially sustainable, climate friendly and equitable funding source to meet the transportation needs of communities across our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tara Wasiak". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot at the end.

Tara Wasiak, Interim Director
Portland Bureau of Transportation