



HB209 May 18, 2023

To: Joint Committee on Transportation, Hon. Co-Chairs McLain and Frederick, Co Vice-Chairs Boquist and Boshart Davis and members of the committee

Re: OPPOSE HB 2096 - 7 HCAS Amendment

Dear Co-Chairs and Committee:

I represent The Street Trust on the [2023-25 Oregon Highway Cost Allocation Study](#) and have been attending meetings all year to guide development of this work.

I consider myself an intelligent person and I have many questions and some concerns about the process - not only technical but in premise in terms of how “fair share” of a mode’s impact on the pavement (yes, this is a study about fair share of impact on the material right of way) will be evaluated and assessed.

Sen. Boquist is correct that the legislature must first constitutionally balance the gas tax versus weight mile charge as required by the Oregon Constitution. However, I do not agree that we should course correct on this immediately through HB 2096 for the following reasons:

1. First, the information in the current HCAS is INCOMPLETE (see outstanding data, slide 4) and PRELIMINARY
2. The COVID-19 pandemic impacts on VMT are an intervening variable which we must account for but not altogether adapt to in the next biennium as it is behind us
3. Historic inflation simultaneously is affecting consumer demand for heavy goods, which also skews the heavy vehicle demand
4. The composition of the “other” highway expenditures is cause for alarm, and must be disaggregated and further evaluated (slide 9)
5. We do not yet have “the bridge paper” or the “tolling equity white paper” from this office upon which to base our decisions
6. If corrections are needed, they should probably to light vehicles on the revenue side; more fair assessment of light vehicles is critical rather than reduced assessment to heavy vehicles
7. We must critically evaluate, conceptualize, and operationalize what constitutes a heavy vehicle expenditure before tinkering with the HCAS

8. Administrative costs are shifting (up 31%) and we need to get to the bottom of it

Ultimately, we have more questions than answers on what constitutes a fair share at this point in time and urge you to vote no on HB 2096 - 7 HCAS Amendment pending further information and certainly not before the 2023-25 and associated reports are complete.

We should only proceed once the HCAS is complete - thank you.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sarah Iannarone  
Executive Director, The Street Trust