



# JACKSON COUNTY

Oregon

## Administrator's Office

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August 22, 2025

Oregon State Legislature  
Joint Interim Committee On Transportation Funding

RE: Written Testimony Supporting LC-2 (2025)

Dear Co-Chair Wagner, Co-Chair Fahey, Co-Vice Chair Bonham, Co-Vice Chair Drazan, and Members of the Joint Interim Committee On Transportation Funding:

I am writing to express **Jackson County's support of LC-2**. We support this bill, as we are in dire need of funding for our County road system, which contains over 900 miles of roadways and more than 300 bridges.

As this Committee is well-aware, costs to maintain our local road system have increased exponentially in recent years, far outpacing our limited revenue streams. 83 percent of our County road funds come from the State Highway Fund, which is forecasted to decrease in the coming years. The cost to maintain our roads is soon expected to exceed our revenues, at which time we will be forced to make significant service-level reductions.

Jackson County continues to be impacted by rapidly rising infrastructure costs, both operational and capital construction expenses, in regards to its transportation system. We fear that, without an immediate fix in the interim session, both State and local transportation networks will erode. This places a tremendous burden on our residents, and will have to be paid for by future generations, with interest. LC-2 does much to begin addressing this concern.

While we support LC-2, we do have four areas of significant concern:

1. **Get back to the basics.** As LC-2 is considered by this Committee, we strongly ask that the legislation continue to focus on the basics - road maintenance and operations. We must focus on improving our roadways, not implementing new policies and programs at the expense of our citizens' pocketbooks. **To this point, we strongly encourage a simple amendment that legislatively directs funds received by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), through this legislation, for the sole purpose of highway maintenance, such as ensuring that our County residents have safe, accessible routes when traveling the mountain passes that Jackson County is surrounded by.**
2. **Take accountability seriously.** Furthermore, we believe you must hold ODOT accountable for its project delivery woes, which this legislation begins to accomplish, and ensure that they are focused on getting back to the basics as well. ODOT has significantly wandered off mission, focusing on issues that the majority of Oregonians do not prioritize, all while our State highways and bridges continue to deteriorate. We implore you to take the auditing measures established in LC-2 extremely seriously and ensure recommendations from such audits are implemented by the ODOT administration in an expedient manner.

3. **Control the growth.** Across the State, agency budgets are exploding in size and, in our opinion, are doing so at an unsustainable level. It is time to take this issue seriously and begin to make the hard decisions to say no to unnecessary programs and initiatives. We cannot continue to support similar legislation in future sessions without seeing drastic improvements that show the Legislature is taking serious measures to stop the bloating of State agency budgets and the mission creep they support.
4. **Public transit funding has to change.** We encourage the Legislature to find other ways to fund public transit instead of placing it on the backs of everyday Oregonians in the form of a direct paycheck reduction. We agree that public transit is important and serves a public need, but we also see areas of unnecessary growth in this regard. Public transit operators must be encouraged to focus on their core services and resist the urge to grow or expand services when locally supported funding is not there to support it. Oregonians are already struggling to meet day-to-day needs, and to continue to place this payroll tax burden on them, many of which never use public transit, is inequitable.

Ultimately, our roads and bridges must be in the condition of which we all can be proud. They are vital to our communities and equally important to our economy. A successful transportation system is essential to every aspect of our society and must not be jeopardized, which leads us to support LC-2.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this issue of statewide importance.

Sincerely,



Danny Jordan  
County Administrator

DJ:sl/kk

By: Online Submission

CC: Local Legislative Delegation