

August 22, 2025

Co-Chairs Wagner and Fahey, Vice-Chairs Bonham and Drazen, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of LC 2. My name is Erica Bratton and I've worked as an ODOT office specialist for 2 years. I provide administrative support to both maintenance and project delivery to ensure that critical tasks are handled efficiently. I handle things like invoicing, communication, meeting organization, generating reports and many other tasks. I help keep maintenance and project delivery moving in a way that allows them to focus on the critical job of maintaining our roads and bridges and delivering projects that create transportation solutions that are designed to carry Oregon into the future.

I am currently not being laid off but that could change at any moment. Having ODOT fully funded is so important because Oregon's transportation infrastructure is the foundation upon which this state functions. Every person in Oregon, no matter if they walk, ride, use public transportation or drive, uses and benefits from a safe and well-maintained transportation system, including at the city and county level. We rely on our ability to transport goods, services and people quickly and efficiently, and if that breaks down, we all suffer.

Every person in Oregon benefits from the work ODOT and other DOT's do in some way every single day. Every person in Oregon will feel the negative effects of the layoffs if they are allowed to happen. There are two maintenance stations slated for closure in my district. If that happens, vital employees lose their jobs, ODOT loses all of their knowledge, skills and the dedication they bring to the job every single day. If we lose those maintenance stations and the services they provide, we will eventually lose easy access to cherished parts of Oregon that we all love, such as mountains, beaches, lakes, hidden gems off the beaten path, communities, and much more.

The loss of quality transportation infrastructure will cause a domino effect of loss that will touch us all. The cost to fund ODOT right now and in the future is an investment in and for the people of Oregon. The cost to try and fix things in the future if ODOT is forced to make these cuts will be a burden on the backs of Oregonians for many years to come.

Please vote in support of this proposal and invest in ODOT to keep Oregon safe and moving forward.

Thank you,

Erica Bratton