

August 22, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of LC 2. My name is Jeff Allen and I work in ODOT as an IT Asset Program Analyst. I am tasked with planning and forecasting the ODOT computer hardware replacement cycle. I discovered a number of issues with the existing processes and procedural discrepancies that would have resulted in a \$500k budget overrun in the 23-25 Biennium had they gone unnoticed. I am proposing several major cost-reduction initiatives for this biennium. I'm also on our IT Service Management replacement project team; the existing system is no longer supported by the vendor and is 20+ years old. I have two decades of experience in both computer replacement cycle planning and ITSM replacement projects.

Without funding, the State of Oregon will suffer three catastrophic, irreversible losses:

1. The reduction in road repairs and seasonal ice/snow removal will have dire consequences putting both state residents and the millions who visit Oregon at risk of injury or death.
2. The loss of hundreds of seasoned specialists will result in a massive brain-drain from ODOT and, once funding is found, these colleagues will be difficult or impossible to replace.
3. The bumping process will result in hundreds of employees being shuffled into unfamiliar roles under different managers, ripping teams apart and requiring months or years to reach adequate competency levels...while also being tasked with increased workloads due to the loss of up to 1,300 open and occupied positions.

This is catastrophic, not only for ODOT and anyone who relies on transportation in Oregon, but it has life-ruining repercussions for discharged employees during a time of national, political, and economic uncertainty. Those in rural areas will suffer the most, as specialized infrastructure maintenance jobs are few and far between. Support Services is getting hit hard by the proposed layoffs, and without a knowledgeable crew to keep the finances tracked and technology running, those who remain will experience increased system down time, longer waits when technology fails, and an overall degradation of service to the citizens of Oregon.

I'm rather new to ODOT, and although I did not end up on the initial list, I was bumped due to seniority rights of someone else. I doubt my replacement will bring over 20 years of experience in highly budget-constrained IT project planning and execution. Having worked my entire career in private higher education, I know how to stretch ever-shrinking technology budgets and still succeed. ODOT has a culture built around 'having enough money' and I fear removing new employees with different mindsets leaves in place the structure and culture partially responsible for the current funding crisis.

So please, fund ODOT. Don't throw away the people who keep Oregonians safe.

Thank you,

Jeff Allen