

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 Rebecca Cortes and I worked as an ODOT Web Developer/Systems Analyst for 7 years; 12 years total at ODOT. I developed and maintained the Transportation Project Tracker (TPT) and the Local Agency Infrastructure Condition Reporting applications, all of which are required by HB 2017 legislation. AskODOT relies on the TPT remaining functional to answer the public's questions about transportation projects across the state. The Local Agency Infrastructure Condition Reporting applications must be functional for local agencies to submit their infrastructure condition data to ODOT biannually to receive funding, per legislative requirements. I also served as a key resource for various major initiatives in the Transportation Data Section, such as the Crash Data System Replacement project.

I am being laid off, and with various family members relying on me for financial assistance, I cannot afford to risk unemployment. As a result, I have had to say goodbye to ODOT, ending my 12-year career with the agency. I have accepted a position with a new agency, and while I am excited for the new role, I'm saddened to leave behind the important work I've put so much effort into over the years and the colleagues I've built strong working relationships with.

If these layoffs occur, I worry about the outcome of key division initiatives, particularly the Crash Data System Replacement project. Our legacy Crash Data System is virtually unsupported and is at risk for becoming completely inoperative with every Windows update. This system is crucial to coding crash data for use in safety and other important analysis. If layoffs occur, the project will lose several key staff including the Project Manager and Senior Business Systems Analyst, which will put the overall effort at major risk.

While my area of work is far removed from road maintenance, I worry deeply about the impacts to all Oregonians if we are unable to maintain our roads. The sun may be shining now, but as soon as temperatures drop and snow and ice start to accumulate, we will not be able to keep roads open and safe for Oregonians to drive on, resulting in more crashes and deaths. It is crucial that the legislature pass a transportation funding package through this special session and avoid the devastating effects of these layoffs.

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

Thank you,

Rebecca Cortes