

Submitter: Blake Goud
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding
Measure, Appointment or LC 2
Topic:

Co-Chairs Wagner and Fahey and Members of the Committee,

My name is Blake Goud and I live in the Portsmouth neighborhood of Portland. I am writing in to testify as neutral on LC 2.

I thank you for your work on this legislation to increase in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund to avoid job cuts and make sure transit services continue to be available to Oregonians, particularly as we face an affordability crisis and ballooning costs of private car ownership.

The inclusion of the 50/30/20 split will help ensure residents in all communities and all levels of government involved in transportation have the resources to maintain safety and stability for their respective systems.

However, I cannot support a package that has no new funding for Great Streets, Safe Routes to School or Oregon Community Paths. These are smart, high-return investments. Every dollar we spend today on sidewalks, multimodal connections, stoplights, and crosswalks saves money by reducing crashes and healthcare costs, and easing inflationary pressure on road construction budgets.

ODOT had a mega-project problem. Hundreds of millions of dollars are spent on projects that are not needed and, in some cases like the Rose Quarter project, will never be built. This may suit the construction companies, their lobbyists and the revolving door between ODOT management and these companies, but it betrays your constituents.

Road deaths due to lack of maintenance and safety investments are directly connected to the misallocation of resources that you enable through our state's transportation budget.

With LC2, you are doubling down on this failed policy by bailing ODOT out while wasting the opportunity to force a realignment of budget priorities away from mega-projects and towards safety and basic maintenance.

Any accountability you claim to institute that doesn't fundamentally reallocate spending away from mega-projects has failed before it even starts. Relying on the same companies that benefit from the mega-project graft to provide

recommendations for better oversight is just a PR campaign, and it will not deliver any accountability for Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and attention to these urgent needs.