

Submitter: Amy West

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: LC 2

Oregonians are struggling to keep up with all the demands on their finances. We are already struggling with the costs of essential living expenses of rent, utilities, food, and gas having increased so much in the last 5 years. Oregonians can't take any more. Now the endless increases in taxes, fees, permits for more and more things. It must stop! Thankfully, the transportation reinvestment plan did not pass the last legislative session that concluded in June, but once again I am asking you to not pass this bill that further burdens Oregon citizens. Absolutely no more increases.

In 2017, ODOT had a 10-year, \$5.6-billion road tax package. After a 10-year, \$5.6 billion road tax package in package, ODOT is now claiming they have had inadequate funding for decades. Let's have accountability: Where is all the money going/where has it gone?

Seriously, how can ODOT be underfunded when:

Oregon has the 10th highest state gas tax in the nation.

The Oregon Gas tax was raised +5% in 2024.

Oregon has the Nation's only state wage (transit) tax. This transit tax is harmful to businesses and causes more to close or flee the State.

Oregon has the Nation's only state bike tax.

The Oregon Legislature approved a new I-5 bridge toll this year.

I recently heard about a plan in the legislature this last session that was given no consideration, which would have returned ODOT to its core function without having an increase. ODOT needs to be audited. They need to focus back to their core mission of building and maintaining roads.

On August 29th, please stand up for your fellow Oregonians and absolutely DO NOT PASS an increase in the gas tax or any fees. We cannot take anymore!

Thank you for your attention on the crucial matter!