

Submitter: David Green

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or Topic: LC 2

I am writing to provided guarded support for the Governor's proposed transportation funding bill and suggestions for improving it.

1. I fully support the increase in the gas tax and as an EV driver, I support the increased taxes and fees for EV's and highly efficient gas powered vehicles that are proposed.
2. I fully support the increased payroll tax to fund public transit. I would support increasing it another .1% to .3%.
3. I fully support continuing to split the State Highway Fund between the state, counties, and cities.
4. I want our interstates to be tolled...rolling back the idea of tolling at this point is a mistake. It should be implemented as we learn how to do it efficiently.
5. ODOT's priorities need to be changed, the funding allocated to make sure that happens, and the legislative and executive branches need to hold them to it. These priorities should be:
 - 5a. Maintenance of existing highways, streets, and bridges is the highest priority. This includes both keeping them physically in good shape, keeping them well marked, and keeping them free of debris and snow. This will save money in the long run.
 - 5b. We already have roads everywhere we need them. It is time to make them safe by gearing up programs like Safe Routes to Schools and Great Streets. Every city and town in Oregon has very dangerous state highways through them--making them safe for people driving, walking, and biking should be the priority for ODOT project work rather than widening existing highways and interstates.
 - 5c. Oregon Community Paths should be funded. More people walking and biking can reduce congestion and these paths are much cheaper to build than roads. But for that to happen, the infrastructure devoted to bike routes, sidewalks, and safe crossings must make people using them feel safe. It is time to invest in this work.
 - 5d. Funding public transit both intercity and intracity transit. This, if done well, can reduce congestion much more cheaply than widening roads and bridges and will help meet many other state priorities.
6. This bill should make it clear that the megaprojects ODOT has been trying to get funded should be stopped. The interstate bridge, the Rose Quarter expansion, and other bridge expansion projects, should not be funded. The bridge projects should be replaced by smaller projects that make them seismically safe rather than expanding them. Any expansion should be for bus rapid transit or light rail. There should be no expansion for vehicle traffic.

7. ODOT must stop borrowing money. The debt servicing we're already doing is higher than we can afford. To add to that would be a major mistake and the legislature must tell ODOT to stop.

Thanks for listening and finding solutions that work for Oregon.

--David Green