

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

As a resident of Forest Grove (Washington County) and native Oregonian, I urge the Joint Interim Committee on Transportation Funding to reject the transportation package advocated by the governor as being too burdensome for working and fixed-income Oregonians, too expensive, and too rewarding of the demonstrated fiscal incompetence of ODOT. The transportation package (or any reduced combination of taxes and fees) is simply unaffordable. While the Oregon legislature may not realize the fact that the cost-of-living in Oregon is becoming increasingly uneconomical -- if not outright expensive! --the average citizen and family does; hence, both businesses and people are leaving. The tax increases must end.

Instead of yet another tax and fee increase, this time to close an ODOT budget gap, the legislature should demand (1) an outside, independent audit of ODOT's finances and priorities to establish accountability; (2) the reorientation of ODOT's focus to core road and bridge maintenance; and (3) the reorganization of ODOT to reduce management overhead and personnel bloat. ODOT's bluff must be called and accountability demanded so that trust is restored in what is now a dysfunctional state agency.

I urge the Joint Interim Committee to reject the transportation package that is to be considered in the Special Session that convenes on 29 August 2025.