

Submitter: Matthew Sztelle
On Behalf Of: Self and family
Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding
Measure, Appointment or
Topic: LC 2

Dear Joint Interim Committee on Transportation Funding,

Thank you for taking public comments. I am a tax-paying and voting resident of Oregon and oppose increases in fees and taxes to fund ODOT's shortfall. My understanding is last year ODOT miscalculated expenses by roughly \$1 billion. With approximately 4.3 million Oregon residents (2020 Census), that comes to roughly \$233 per person, recognizing, of course not all directly pay and means the short fall is even more impactful on those that do pay. With the proposals for an additional \$5 billion in increases, granted over several years, that number grows to \$1,165 per person, again not all paid evenly. Statements that Oregon is keeping pace with inflation fall flat. All Oregonians are impacted by inflation and have to find ways to manage their budget in the midst of their actual budget - the numbers just related are significant impacts to a household budget. Further, the average Oregonian does not have maintenance budget to fill the gap for failure to address other funding gaps. To that end, I see many projects that have questionable value that do not address road safety and quality, but have to be funded. Regarding electric vehicles, my understanding is that Oregon is realizing over \$75 million more in revenue in gas taxes at current rates than 5 years ago, which suggest EVs are not the root cause. Promises for improved oversight are not credible in my estimation and sound like standard statements to see a bill approved and kick the proverbial can down the road.

Thank you for taking comments, addressing the overall management at ODOT and NOT increasing the tax and fee burden on Oregonians.

Respectfully.