

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

No new taxes! Practice fiscal responsibility. Stay on core ODOT responsibilities.

1. Raising taxes (especially on fuel and transportation fees) raises inflation (the cost of goods) in Oregon. A raise in the gas tax will raise the cost of living and the cost of doing business in Oregon. Businesses are already leaving Oregon. For individuals, not only will it be the extra they pay for their car fuel, but also the extra cost that will be added to every single items increased by the cost of fuel. Businesses must pass on the cost of manufacturing to consumers to stay in business.

2. Stop wasteful projects. For example, The roundabout on Highway 99 near independence and Monmouth was a gross mismanagement and use of transportation funds. If anything was needed, a simple traffic light would've been sufficient. Instead, prime farmland was taken and put under pavement, millions of dollars were spent, and over a year taken on a project that never was needed in the first place. It is hard to believe you guys are asking for more funds after seeing government waste at that level. Also lots of farming equipment goes up and down that road. Roundabouts are not good for farming equipment, trucking, or oversized loads. Whoever signed off on that project should have to come and testify before the transportation committee on how much that project cost, why it was initiated in the first place, and why it wasn't either left alone or done as a simple traffic light like all the other roads off of HWY 99.

3. Prioritize spending. Why put in a double lane out of Corvallis at a time when you don't have enough funds to meet core ODOT responsibilities. Yes, upgrade when you can. That was a bottle neck spot for sure. But wait for when you have the financial resources. Focus on core ODOT mission and wait to prioritize huge capital projects.