

To whom it may concern,

I appreciate the opportunity to share my perspective on the proposed transportation funding package.

I recognize that ODOT faces serious budget challenges, and I agree that maintaining safe, reliable roads and transit systems is vital for our state's economy and communities. We all rely on this infrastructure, and finding sustainable funding solutions is important.

That said, I am concerned about the affordability of the current proposal, which includes a 6-cent gas tax increase, higher DMV registration and title fees, and a doubled payroll tax for transit. These costs may seem modest on paper, but they add up quickly for working families—especially those in rural areas who drive long distances with little access to public transit. Small businesses, delivery drivers, and tradespeople could also see higher costs that eventually pass down to customers.

Fiscal irresponsibility is rampant across a bloated and out of touch government, cost of living hasn't recovered from the historical levels of inflation under the previous federal administration, exacerbated by outrageous utility rate increases, yet Governor Kotek wants to take the easy route of punishing Oregonians with yet even higher taxes.

I urge you to consider whether these increases could be phased in over time, paired with efficiency measures at ODOT, or offset by federal infrastructure funds before placing the burden directly on residents. Accountability and transparency in how the new revenues are spent will also be key to building trust. I would suggest that a more equitable burden needs to be shouldered by the electric vehicle drivers in the state as well.

I support the goal of maintaining strong transportation infrastructure, but I believe we need to balance that with fairness and affordability. Thank you for your time and for considering the impacts on ordinary Oregonians.