

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

Thank you for the opportunity to share my strong support for Governor Kotek's proposed transportation funding bill ahead of the special session beginning August 29, 2025.

There are several reasons I support this bill:

1. ODOT currently faces close to a \$350?million deficit in its budget, with dire consequences including hundreds of job losses, delayed repairs and services, and slower DMV operations which threaten Oregonians' safety and mobility. The proposed revenue measures are essential to prevent closures of 12 maintenance facilities and layoffs of nearly 500 employees.
2. Protecting Safety, Infrastructure, and Community Well-Being. Years of deferred maintenance have pushed transportation systems to the brink. The bill's increases to gas tax, registration and title fees, transit payroll tax, and EV-related charges will invest in the roads, bridges, and public transit systems our communities rely on—especially during severe weather or emergencies, which we know we will face with increasing frequency.
3. Supporting Equity and Mobility Across Oregon. Through a fair distribution model, nearly \$590?million from the 2025–27 cycle will go to the State Highway Fund—with direct support for the Department of Transportation, counties, and cities. Another \$197?million would bolster public transit. Ensuring stable funding for all layers of government supports local mobility and access for Oregonians statewide.
4. Laying the Groundwork for Long-Term Resilience. While this bill is an immediate step, it also sets the stage for long-term sustainability. The proposed measures—including phased EV road usage charges and increased transit payroll taxes—reflect a commitment to forward-looking, equitable transportation policy.
5. Local mayors and county officials, particularly in smaller communities like Detroit, Sisters, Lincoln City, and others, have expressed how critical ODOT services are for emergency response and everyday safety. A stable transportation system supports evacuation, wildfire safeguards, and timely snow removal.

For Oregonians to continue to travel safely and for our local economies to thrive, this bill represents a necessary and balanced approach. I urge the Committee and the

Legislature to pass Governor Kotek's proposal during the upcoming special session. This is our moment to provide stable, equitable, and forward-looking transportation funding for all.

Thank you for your consideration.