

Submitter: Ronald Stillmaker

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation  
Funding

Measure, Appointment or  
Topic: LC 2

Testimony of Ronald F. Stillmaker, P.E.  
President, Professional Engineers of Oregon  
Before the Joint Interim Committee on Transportation Funding

Co-Chairs Wagner and Fahey, Co-Vice Chairs Bonham and Drazan, and Members of  
the Committee:

The Professional Engineers of Oregon (PEO) represents licensed engineers  
dedicated to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public through the  
design, construction, and maintenance of our state's infrastructure.

Safe and reliable transportation is fundamental to the daily lives of Oregonians. Our  
roads and bridges carry not only commerce but also the essential connections that  
allow people to live and work safely. Yet the system is showing its age, and the costs  
of deferred maintenance are mounting. According to Axios Portland, ODOT faces a  
\$354 million budget shortfall in the coming biennium, threatening essential services if  
left unaddressed. ODOT's 2024 Pavement Condition Report further shows that the  
share of highways rated in "good" condition has fallen to its lowest point in more than  
two decades. More than half of Oregon's bridges are now over 50 years old—well  
beyond their original design life.

From a professional engineering perspective, timely maintenance is one of the most  
cost-effective choices the state can make. Every dollar invested today helps prevent  
far greater costs and risks tomorrow. The proposed \$5.7 billion funding proposal—  
spread over the next decade—represents a meaningful step toward reversing the  
trajectory of deferred maintenance and declining system reliability. While new  
projects will always have their place, Oregon must ensure that maintaining the  
infrastructure people rely on every day remains at the forefront of this investment. As  
this proposal moves forward, we also encourage continued progress on the major  
projects authorized in 2017, which remain integral to delivering a safe, reliable, and  
efficient system for Oregonians.

Professional Engineers across the state stand ready to lend our expertise to ensure  
this investment delivers lasting results for the people of Oregon.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald F. Stillmaker, P.E.  
President  
Professional Engineers of Oregon