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

We need to acknowledge that driving is actually not cheap. Having functional roads, bridges, trains, and infrastructure is not cheap. Doing without federal funding means that the state needs to step up by increasing taxes and fees, and substantially so.

I would support this bill, but personally I still think it's too low. Drivers want smooth roads, no potholes, and less traffic but all of that costs money and a functioning well-funded transportation department. Moreover, I think the 0.2% income taxes for public transit is also too low. Similarly, having one of the better public transit systems in the country is also not cheap. We don't have sales taxes to fill in the gaps either and I would personally be willing to pay up to 1% knowing that trimet would put my money to good use maintaining and improving the robust MAX and bus system we have.

The rates that we pay in taxes and fees for driving, and taxes for public transit is comedically low compared to the actual costs associated with maintaining the infrastructure. When are we going to stop demanding more out of less and foot the bill for the infrastructure that we all really want? We should NOT take after the federal government by slashing and burning essential programs and demanding even more efficiency from already extraordinarily efficient institutions, but instead invest heartily in a better future.

It seems like they already tried to go even higher than what this bill proposes and it failed, but I hope that in the future those higher rates are considered again. I'll be attending virtually at 3pm.