

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

Honorable members of the Oregon legislature

Thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony on Bill LC 2. As I live in eastern Oregon and travel frequently around the state, I know that the funding for continued operations of the Oregon Department of Transportation operations for maintenance including road repair and snow plowing is very important. So funds for these operations are needed. But please also know that I believe there needs to be a major overhaul in the management and operations of ODOT. While your promises of improved oversight of cost overruns and meg-project management read well, the truth of the matter is that similar promises have been made several times over the past 15 years. The Legislature has directed audits and consultant studies and recommendations have been implemented but the cost overruns and out of control meg-projects continue. So I am asking that you actually do the work required to bring this state agency with its \$5 billion budget under control. When you traveled the state last year, you heard from Oregonians about their transportation needs. The overwhelming call from the citizens was for safer streets, travel options besides cars, including improved transit. The Oregon Department of Transportation does not address the transportation needs of the 1/3 of Oregonians who do not drive. Mega-projects the cost massively and run on for years never deliver the promised savings in time.

Thank you for your efforts but you need to lead a drive to create a better and more cost-efficient Oregon Department of Transportation