

Submitter: Erron Cowlen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation  
Funding

Measure, Appointment or  
Topic: LC 2

I am in support of LC2 because our transportation system needs to be maintained at current levels. Those who oppose the bill don't seem to take into account inflation and wage rate increases that are impacting everyone. I, too, am tired of constant rate increases for everything, but the answer cannot be to simply defund, underfund, not fund, or fire people who keep roads safe and moving, especially during winter events, etc. The state is going to lose significant talent and knowledge by layoffs, impacting everyone who needs even infrequent help from the state. It's is very difficult to recruit talent for many state positions; these skills tend to be very nuanced and specific and are not easily replaceable. However, I do not support the transit payroll tax increase. MAX ridership has not restored since the pandemic, and it will not ever restore given remote work. It's wasteful to maintain service at current levels without taking reduced ridership into account. Thank you.