

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

Dear Committee Members,

I was deeply saddened to see that 96% of the written testimony you received prior to this hearing was in opposition to saving jobs at ODOT. As an ODOT employee, I know how hard we work to keep our communities safe and moving. Prior to coming to ODOT 10 years ago, I did not appreciate the often invisible to the public work that ODOT does. I am not awake in the middle of the night to see the snow plows clearing our roads, I was not tuned into who was doing sidewalk improvements in my area, etc.

If you fail to fund this crucial agency, you and your constituents will realize once it's too late, what we have lost. Already, many talented colleagues have chosen to take higher-paid jobs in the private sector or retire early because of this turmoil. Losing more people at the bottom (the people that do the work), while we have a bloated leadership structure at the top is an absolute shame by the way. ODOT does need help in managing 'mega-projects'. Getting rid of experienced and dedicated staff will not make those issues better.

We need dedicated funding so that we can get out of the crisis-mode that we have been operating in for the last several years. Please, do something to help.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Eastman-Flores