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

Mismanagement of taxpayer funds through ODOT shouldn't be bailed out by taxpayers by us simply rolling over and letting our elected officials raising our taxes. In my opinion they need to sit in their poor decision making, learn from it, govern better and do better. Right now they need to figure out how to build in efficiency and do they role with less. They need to own a hard decision of figuring this out. I'm sorry if people have to get laid off but government employees, in my opinion, should not have a mindset of permanency. Employee layoffs happen everyday in other sectors in our country. Most people figure out how to find other jobs.

ODOT passed the biggest transit bill in Oregon history several years ago (in the billions) dedicated to fixing the Rose Quarter traffic log jam and the funds were to work on I-5 bridge and other major system improvements to transit flow and efficiency (helping workers get home to their families sooner after a long day at work) none of which from what I've read have been accomplished with that biggest transit bill package they passed.

This new funding proposal they are trying to pass now as I understand it to increase taxes is not designed to support projects to help our traffic problems rather to simply keep jobs to snowplow, fix potholes, do general maintenance, etc. We would see no improvement with our new money to our transit system. What we will see is more hard choices of families having to stretch their family income just to fill their tanks to get to work burning more gas sitting in traffic. Higher level earners will continue to leave our communities and it will be a deterrent for companies to locate to Oregon because all our tax burden is simply not an incentive for new employees to take the jobs and move here.

Oregon and specifically Multnomah County are some of the highest taxed populations in our country and that would be okay if we could show the positive and amazing impact. But in my opinion, we can't.