

Submitter:	Dessia Scott Myers
On Behalf Of:	Public
Committee:	Joint Interim Committee On Transportation Funding
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	LC 2

My name is Dessia Scott Myers; I am an employee of ODOT. I am married to Shayne Myers, who is also an employee of ODOT. We own a home in Union County; we are also taxpayers. I see the Oregon Department of Transportation as an agency that works for the safety of all Oregonians and visitors to Oregon. We are public servants, and we are not a waste of money. I keep hearing that ODOT is "wasting" money. People are not a waste, and safety is not a waste. There is not one element of safety or transportation in this state that is not a direct result of a person working for ODOT. I recently took a drive 45 miles from La Grande to Baker City on Interstate 84. On that drive I paid attention to every traffic element I could that was a direct result of a state worker that directly benefits the public. The asphalt, striping, reflectors, signs, lights, overpasses, debris from animals and vehicles, mowing for visibility and fire reduction, rumble strips, exits, the list goes on. In 45 miles of highway, I saw multiple farms producing livestock and other products. I saw homes, where people live that require entry and exit of the state roads. Every element of transportation in this state that every citizen is affected by is a direct result of an ODOT employee. Nothing in Oregon's transportation infrastructure can be accomplished without people contributing their knowledge, skill, education, and time to create safety for the public. In fact, there's a lot of employees that risk their own lives on our roads because they are passionate about the work they do. According to the 2022 Agriculture Census, there are 35,547 farms in Oregon; 96% of those farms are family owned. Do you think the farms could operate without the men and women that do the work for ODOT? I encourage you to take a drive and pay attention to all the elements that ODOT puts into place to improve our transportation infrastructure and each of those elements requires people. You cannot achieve safety without people doing the work. People and safety are not a waste of money. ODOT employees are responsible for every piece of transportation infrastructure that promotes safety, promotes business, and benefits every citizen of Oregon as well as visitors. In 2023 the State Highway Fund contributed 371.8 million dollars to Oregon counties; and 246.2 million dollars to Oregon cities. I urge you to take a walk, ride, or drive around your neighborhood and pay attention to the roads, sidewalks, crosswalks, signs, lights, and every other element that could have been a direct result of ODOT funding and people. Imagine if all of these transportation elements didn't exist. Traffic fatalities in Oregon have steadily decreased since 2022. The work that ODOT employees do everyday matters. Safety and people are not a waste of money. The state of Oregon needs to support Oregon citizens, businesses, and visitors by providing ODOT employees safety and security to do a job that all Oregonians benefit from. We realize that ODOT needs to change, but ODOT cannot

change without people doing the work from the inside. We care about our state, we care about our roads, we care about our finances, and we will work to make things better for everyone. Please give us the opportunity to improve.