



August 26, 2025

Joint Committee on Transportation Funding:

Re: Need for Road Funding Change

The City of Medford wants to express our appreciation and thanks for your willingness to take on the very difficult issue of addressing the statewide transportation funding crisis.

Like local governments across the state, the City of Medford continues to be impacted by rapidly rising transportation infrastructure costs in maintenance, operations, and capital construction. Despite repeated fee increases paid by our residents, our pavement condition continues to decline, and critical capital improvement projects are delayed due to cost increases. We fear that without immediate investment; the City of Medford and most local governments are at a tipping point where transportation infrastructure assets will fall into severe disrepair which will cause safety issues for users and will place a tremendous burden on our residents that will have to be paid for by future generations.

The City of Medford supports a funding package that focuses on the basics - street maintenance and operations. and maintains the historic 50/30/20% split of the State Highway Fund.

The City of Medford also agrees with the additional steps to hold the Oregon Department of Transportation accountable for their project delivery struggles. We would go further by asking for an audit of ODOT's internal project delivery and environmental review process for capital projects, as we believe many of their project delivery challenges lie internally within the agency and we are concerned that some have forgotten that their primary mission is to move goods and people. We fully acknowledge that inflationary pressures have impacted ODOT's ability to deliver projects, but we are also convinced that portions of the agency have simply wandered away from their core mission.

Our highways, streets, and bridges are the backbone of our transportation system and must be in the condition that we all can be proud. A successful transportation system is vital to every aspect of our society and must not be jeopardized by those seeking to pursue other goals through this legislation.

Again, we appreciate your hard work on this legislation and for the opportunity to provide comment on this issue of statewide importance and we do support the passage of a bipartisan transportation package this session.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dan Worth', written in a cursive style.

Dan Worth, Director
City of Medford Public Works Department

C: Michael Zarosinski, Mayor
Medford City Council