

Submitter: Jessica Davidson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: LC 2

Dear Members of the Joint Interim Committee on Transportation Funding,
I am writing to express my **STRONG OPPOSITION** to the proposed Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Transportation Package. As an Oregon resident, I am deeply concerned about the financial burden this package would place on individuals, families, and businesses, as well as the lack of sufficient accountability and transparency in ODOT's operations.

The proposed package includes significant tax and fee increases, such as raising the gas tax from \$0.40 to \$0.46 per gallon (with plans for further increases), nearly doubling vehicle registration fees, tripling the payroll tax for public transit, and introducing new road usage charges for electric vehicle drivers. These measures disproportionately impact working-class Oregonians, small businesses, and rural communities who rely heavily on personal vehicles due to limited public transit options. At a time when many families are already struggling with rising costs of living, these additional financial burdens feel like a step backward.

Moreover, I question the necessity and effectiveness of these revenue increases given ODOT's history of mismanagement and inefficiencies. Independent reviews and public scrutiny have highlighted issues such as outdated financial software, project delays, and ballooning budgets. Rather than imposing new taxes, I urge the committee to prioritize reforming ODOT's internal processes and ensuring taxpayer dollars are used efficiently before asking Oregonians to pay more.

Additionally, the package's focus on urban-centric priorities, such as public transit and bike infrastructure, overlooks the needs of rural Oregonians who depend on well-maintained roads and bridges for daily travel and economic activity. A truly equitable transportation plan should balance investments across all regions of the state, not just urban centers.

I respectfully request that the committee reconsider this package and explore alternative solutions, such as redirecting existing funds from less critical programs or implementing stronger oversight mechanisms for ODOT. Oregonians deserve a transportation system that is safe, reliable, and fiscally responsible without placing undue strain on our wallets.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I urge you to vote against the current ODOT Transportation Package and work toward a solution that prioritizes accountability, fairness, and affordability.

Kind Regards,
Jessica Davidson