

August 26, 2025

RE: Support for LC 2 Transportation Package for Special Session

Co-Chair Wagner, Co-Chair Fahey, Co-Vice Chair Bonham, Co-Vice Chair Drazan and Members of the Joint Transportation Committee,

COIN fully endorses and urges you to fund the LC 2 Transportation Package during this Special Session. COIN is a coalition of more than 60 grassroots Indivisible groups throughout Oregon that cooperate and amplify their joint efforts to advance federal and state legislation and engage with their elected officials to promote progressive causes that benefit all Oregonians.

This transportation package is one such cause. All Oregonians depend on transportation and public transit services in one form or another, and funding for transportation in Oregon has not kept pace with need for at least two decades. As cars became more fuel efficient, the gas tax did not increase to offset this change and was not indexed to inflation. Oregon's failure to adequately increase the revenue for transportation funding has now reached a tipping point. No one wants to pay higher taxes, but everyone wants safe roads and safe bridges and it's clear that we cannot achieve this without increasing revenue. Increasing the gas tax by 6% along with increased registration fees and payroll taxes, as well as EV-related fees, are reasonable steps in the right direction.

We also support the 50/30/20 split between state, counties, and cities for the revenue LC 2 will generate. We support the simplification of the state's taxing system for heavy trucks to make it more equitable and bring it more in line with other states.

Additionally, this legislation will support nearly 1000 family wage jobs throughout Oregon, primarily ODOT employees who do the hands-on work of maintaining transportation services across the state. This will significantly contribute to our economy in urban and rural areas.

The primary argument against LC 2 seems to be that people can't afford any additional tax or fees. We would argue that we can't afford to **NOT** pay a little more, in order to save lives. This transportation package is an investment in the safety of all Oregonians.

To claim, as some have done, that ODOT has more than enough money to provide the services Oregonians expect is simply not supported by the evidence, and misrepresents the relationship between maintenance of transportation services and investment in needed capital projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for this important legislation.

Deborah Ferrer, Patricia Kramer
COIN Legislative Team