

August 27, 2025

City of
Grants Pass
Live Rogue



Chairs Wagner & Fahey, Vice Chairs Bonham & Drazen, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Grants Pass, I would like to clarify the City's position regarding LC 2 and the upcoming special session. The initial testimony was intended to recognize that maintaining and improving our transportation system is essential for mobility, safety, and economic vitality, the City **is not** supporting legislation in this special session that increases any taxes. Our testimony is intended solely to reflect support for preserving the longstanding State Highway Fund (SHF) revenue sharing model. Let us be clear, we are not in favor of how LC 2 burdens our constituents by raising taxes.

Currently, Grants Pass receives approximately \$3 million each biennium through SHF allocations, which are distributed by a formula that directs 50 percent of revenues to the state, 30 percent to counties, and 20 percent to cities. This framework is critical to ensuring local governments have a reliable and dedicated source of funding for the majority of Oregon's road network.

At the same time, the City Council has significant concerns about the compounding burden of repeated or escalating taxes and fees on working families and small employers. We recognize the necessity of sustained investment; we also believe successful transportation packages succeed when they pair revenue with accountability, transparency, and sensitivity to household and business costs.

To that end, we respectfully urge the Committee to:

- Preserve the 50/30/20 revenue sharing model within the SHF distribution.
- Identify revenue sources that do not further increase the tax burden on Oregon households already struggling with rising costs.
- Strengthen ODOT accountability and oversight through clear project lists, timely reporting, and outcome measures so communities can see and trust the return on each dollar invested.

The City of Grants Pass is dedicated to being a constructive partner in the effort to strengthen Oregon's transportation network. We ask that as the Legislature look internally for existing revenue to ensure the cities share of the State Highway Fund be protected so communities can sustain both infrastructure and economic vitality.

Respectfully,


Clint Scherf, Mayor


Victoria Marshall, Council President


Aaron Cubic, City Manager

CF#: 056-2025