

Submitter: Neil Hennelly
On Behalf Of: All Oregonians
Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding
Measure, Appointment or Topic: LC 2

Good Afternoon,
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this critical bill.

I am writing in opposition to this package. My reasons are many.

ODOT has a decades long track record proving they are currently incapable of bringing in major projects in on time and on budget. This track record alone should be all you need to vote no on this measure.

There is no real accountability in ODOT leadership, as no one is held accountable for their continued financial mismanagement. I am a retired local government administrator, and if I had a track record like ODOT I never would have made it to retirement.

As a former public employee, I worked everyday to be a good steward of the public funds, assets, and property entrusted to me. This is missing at ODOT. They are more concerned about chasing new shiny things while ignoring critical infrastructure needs. It is basically job one.

ODOT, the Transportation Commission, and to some extent the legislature, and Govenor have been kicking the can down the road, creating a crisis due to mismanagement, poor planning/execution, and zero accountability.

ODOT has no concept of "The buck stops here" they just overspend and put their hand out.

We need to put them on an austerity budget. Fix the crumbling infrastructure, fund emergency operations (plowing, emergency response...). Scale back or pause the shiny projects for a budget cycle or two and build a robust, accountable, management system that will hold people to account for not properly doing their job.

We need to change the culture there for all of our sakes.

In closing, stop using hard working front line workers and threats if icy roads and crumbling bridges and roadways as your political pawns. You serve the voters of Oregon, not the special interest groups.

Please help, vote no!