

Submitter:	Lisa Adatto
On Behalf Of:	Lake Oswego Sustainability Network
Committee:	Joint Interim Committee On Transportation Funding
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	LC 2

The Lake Oswego Sustainability Network (LOSN) is a volunteer non-profit organization that promotes sustainable practices in our community. On behalf of the board of Directors of LOSN, we are writing in support of passing a stopgap bill to maintain maintenance and safety of our transportation system at current levels of function. We view this as an interim measure as it does not adequately address the need for increased transit, build out of adequate rail (both freight and passenger), important safety measures such as Safe Routes to School and Great Streets, and emissions accountability.

Despite the outcry against additional taxes for this sector, Oregonians want and need a smoothly functioning transportation system to maintain economic vigor. We applaud the inclusion of increased funding for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for transit. While this increase is a step in the right direction, it is unlikely to be sufficient to maintain current service levels over the long term, leaving the many Oregonians who do not drive with fewer mobility options. We also support an increase in the gas tax as a necessary step toward stabilizing transportation funding and facilitating the transition to less polluting vehicles. At the same time, we empathize with Oregonians who struggle to afford an increase in taxes. To minimize the tax increase and conserve scarce funding, the Legislature should prioritize those major projects that are essential to maintain public safety, but put on hold major projects that are not related to immediate safety issues and are not fully funded. We recommend that the legislature redirect monies to safety, maintenance and emissions reductions.

It is critical to maintain Oregon's focus on meeting climate goals. Every day we contend with the increasing dangers of climate change. In future legislative sessions, we need EV infrastructure support, improved land use planning, enhanced rolling and walking infrastructure, and a modernized system of transit and rail. These measures will reduce wear and tear on our highways, reducing maintenance costs.

Thank you for taking these views into account as you act on the draft legislation this week.