

Submitter: Linda Middlekauff
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding
Measure, Appointment or Topic: LC 2

To the Joint Interim Committee of Transportation Funding:

The time has come for both the OR Legislators and the Governor to come to terms with the facts about the funding of the OR Dept. of Transportation. According to the Cascade Policy Institute's findings, ODOT received more funding in 2024 than in previous years and simply needs to adjust its priorities instead of burdening taxpayers even more than we're already being burdened. They suggest using OR Lottery funds to make up the ODOT deficit and to reduce statutory restrictions on existing revenue.

<https://cascadepolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/8-27-25-Spending-Solutions-for-ODOTs-Spending-Problems-PDF.pdf> (please copy & paste into your browser.)

I live in Roseburg and am deeply concerned about the transportation tax bill. So many families in my county are already stretched thin. Any additional taxes and fees would make daily life unaffordable. Just like my family has had to do, ODOT must also tighten its belt. ODOT should refocus its spending and prioritize keeping Oregonians safe on the road.

Please consider alternatives that don't financially punish Oregonian such as using OR Lottery funds to make up any ODOT deficits as proposed by Cascade Policy Institute. It's president, John A Charles, Jr., in his Aug. 22, 2025 testimony to this interim committee suggested a 2-pronged approach to ODOT's financial problems:

We have reviewed LC 2, and have two suggestions related to Sections 16-25:

Repeal most statutory restrictions on ODOT's use of SHF revenue; and
Begin paying down ODOT's debt service with lottery funds.

ODOT can and should refocus their spending to prioritize core road maintenance – fill the potholes, plow the snow, and most importantly, keep Oregonians safe. With billion-dollar budget blunders, misguided priorities, runaway costs and unfinished projects, ODOT must first focus on rebuilding trust with Oregonians.

Please do NOT pass LC 2!

Thank you!