

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

I support the passing of the bill to fund transportation for ODOT.

I find it very frustrating most of the media coverage has not stressed publicly the funding ODOT-wide is not transferrable due to it being allocated by legislation itself. This bill will fund one of, if not the, most important functions of ODOT - MAINTAINING SAFETY.

I am very concerned if ODOT is not funded properly that there will be casualties on the highways this winter. It is not a far fetched reality if roads are not properly maintained, de-iced, sanded, plowed, etc, that drivers will crash and/or be stuck with no one to help them. I see first response ODOT vehicles and personnel daily on I-5 picking up dangerous items out of the roadway - all the way from tire rubber from trucks to random debris from residential vehicles. Imagine the traffic build up if ODOT cannot keep up with even trash on highways. ODOT first response is often the first to the scene of the crash. Cable barriers and guardrail along I-5 (and anyway highway) must be properly repaired in order for the next collision to be minimized. ODOT needs to be properly funded to keep Oregonians safe. It should indexed with inflation so this same scenario is not happening every couple of years.

While I understand no one is in favor of tax increases, I also feel the realistic impact of the tax increase has not been conveyed to the public. We hear what the total amount of dollars the tax increase will be, but this is over a long period of time. I believe the average Oregonian may have to compromise the equivalent of one or two dinners out a YEAR to make up for the tax increase impact on us as individuals. This is a no-brainer when comparing to the lives saved to fund ODOT properly to keep our roads properly maintained.

Thank you for considering passing this bill.