

Submitter: Angela Todd

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation  
Funding

Measure, Appointment or  
Topic: HB3992

Members of the Legislature,

I want to draw your attention to one fact that should stop us all in our tracks: 55 cents of every gas tax dollar collected in Oregon now goes to paying off ODOT's debt — not fixing our roads.

What are we doing here? We are enabling unsustainable behavior — chasing federal loans to cover operations, layering on more hires, inefficiencies, and pet projects, while Oregon's core infrastructure continues to crumble.

This proposal is also misleading. It's framed as a biannual adjustment, but the previous 40-cent increase was sold to Oregonians as a 10-year plan. What's happening here is the same tax hike, just asked for incrementally — which means ODOT will be back in two years asking this very legislature for more.

And has anyone here looked at ODOT's own spending? Executive salaries? New hires, even as a fiscal cliff was known and imminent? Entire new departments created while our infrastructure continues to decay?

Taxing and increasing fees on Oregonians does nothing to solve these structural problems, nor does it prepare us for the next decade.

On top of that, language in this bill allowing ODOT to raise gas taxes after 2030 is flatly unconstitutional. You cannot hand unelected bureaucrats the power to tax at will.

I also want to address the many ODOT employees working in maintenance and operations. These are the people who keep Oregonians on the road. Their jobs are being used as pawns in a game full of executive self-interest, political capture, and public union financing of politicians. Their jobs should be funded first — not last.

And let's be honest: I don't even know why we're here, when ODOT has already told Willamette Week they have the money they need with a legislative change — without raising taxes.

I beg of you: rise to your true calling. Stop playing political sides. Stop being afraid to admit this is unreasonable. Make the necessary changes within existing tax revenue

to fund maintenance and operations. And encourage the Governor to do her job — to manage and oversee ODOT, instead of asking struggling Oregonians to foot the bill for mismanagement.

Thank you.