

Submitter: Amy Wagner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation  
Funding

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3991

As an Oregon taxpayer that has to live within my own budget, I would encourage a NO vote on this proposed transportation package (HB3991). This should not be a partisan issue. ODOT needs to work on improving and correcting the errors in their current system and processes before asking for more revenue. I would like to point out the recent Audit that was performed on ODOT after there was an admitted \$1.1 billion 'miscalculation' and \$98 million that couldn't be accounted for. The Internal Audit Report I'm referencing was dated January 9, 2025. What I noticed in that report was a lot of excuses and blame on forecasting models and older technology that "staff don't understand", errors and inaccuracies that are continually made throughout their current processes, and a lack of oversight that has created this current budget crisis. The steps they've taken to address some of the issues is not enough for me to be confident that they should have their hand out for more of our hard earned money to mismanage. The assurance of more accountability requirements in this new package does not mean much either, when so far it seems like there has been very little accountability for the current crisis. The ODOT Executive Team is paid very well with several at salaries of around \$250,000 each. They should have the ability and responsibility to catch these types of errors and come up with solutions before it gets to this point. For Kris Strickler to put the blame of pending layoffs and budget issues on the legislator's "inability to pass a transportation package to keep the agency solvent" is deflection and inappropriate given how they got to this point. If they correct some of the inaccurate forecasting and cash flow models, they might find that they have the money they need already. As noted by ODOT itself and some of our representatives that have been trying to work on this without adding extra taxes, there are likely some solutions in making changes to how some of the current funding is required to be spent.