



August 31, 2025

RE: HB 3991 (Special Session)

To: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation Funding

Dear Co-Chairs Sen. Wagner and Rep. Fahey, Co-Vice-Chairs Sen. Bonham and Rep. Drazen, and members of the committee:

For the record, my name is Jamie Pang, and I am the Deputy Director of Programs at Oregon Just Transition Alliance (OJTA). OJTA is part of the Move Oregon Forward campaign, and like them, we remain currently neutral on HB 3991, as we have in previous iterations of a transportation bill. OJTA is a statewide Alliance representing both urban and rural communities on the frontlines of climate change, economic exploitation, and environmental justice who don't have reliable or affordable transportation options, requiring people to own and drive cars.

OJTA reiterates many of the same points we have made before. We recognize that HB 3991 is a compromise, and a band-aid effort to keep transit and road maintenance level. *We strongly oppose any amendments that would reduce transit or safety funding, further weaken climate protections, refer this issue to the ballot, or otherwise delay the urgently needed budget patch for transit agencies, and city, county, and state transportation departments.*

This bill is already a net-negative for climate and equity. The Road Usage Charge for electric vehicles is set to tax Oregon EV drivers the equivalent gas tax of a 20-MPG vehicle. This means overcharges on EVs and hits high-mileage rural drivers hardest- while also asking for drivers of hybrid vehicles to pay the RUC and an increased gas tax. These funding mechanisms are not climate-forward, fair, or sustainable.

We also have many community members in our Transportation Justice that rely on public transit to access basic needs like going to doctor appointments and getting groceries that have also already testified in support of transit investments. We can't afford to stop investing in public transit.

We also recognize the need for stronger accountability where funding first goes to take care of the potholes, road repairs, and broken guardrails **before** we pursue expensive

highway expansions in Portland- which have the impact of increasing climate emissions. Such emissions then ultimately disproportionately harms frontline communities.

This stopgap is vital, but the work is not done here. I urge you to come back to pass a transportation package that fixes some of the climate justice and equity provisions, that works for ALL Oregonians and reflects our shared values of safety, affordability, equity, and climate resilience.

Thank you,

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