

Submitter: Joseph Stenger
On Behalf Of: myself
Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation
Funding
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3991

My name is Joseph Stenger MD. I am co-chair of the MCAT Transportation Committee (Mobilizing Climate Action Together). I support this stopgap bill to sustain maintenance and safety of our transportation system at current levels of function.

I applaud the inclusion of increased funding for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for transit and strongly oppose attempts to reduce this increase. While this is a step in the right direction, it will be sufficient even to maintain current service levels in the near future. This will leave the many Oregonians who do not drive with even fewer mobility options.

Increasing availability of reliable transit is one of the options to reduce emissions and air pollution due to transportation. Getting people out of cars and into transit also decongests our roads for the benefit of those who continue to drive.

Despite the outcry against additional taxes, Oregonians want and need a smoothly functioning transportation system to maintain economic vigor. To address the fiscal squeeze due to the slashing of Federal allocations, the Legislature should put a hold on major projects and redirect those monies to safety, maintenance and emissions reductions.

In later legislative sessions, we need EV infrastructure support, improved land use planning, enhanced rolling and walking infrastructure, and a modernized system of transit and rail. These measures will reduce wear and tear on our highways, reducing maintenance costs.

Thank you for taking these views into account as you act on the draft legislation this week.