

Submitter: Helena Birecki

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation  
Funding

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3992

Dear Members of the Committee,

Following up on my verbal testimony, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" as it relates to this bill means:

1) Providing adequate transit service has a very small cost compared to the economic and human health fallout of shutting down service. Transit funding and certainty that the funding will be sustained is essential.

2) Funding adequate staffing and resources to make roads navigable is also a small cost compared to the fallout of more roads having "E" service. Those workers who keep roads safe and navigable-- including office personell needed to direct crews and get resources where they're needed needed-- must keep their jobs.

3) Funding safe walking and bicycling routes reduces traffic, reduces road maintenance costs, and reduces costly health harming pollution. More foot and bicycle traffic is also known to improve local economies. An ounce of investment in active transportation creates a pound of benefit to Oregonians.

4) This bill falls short of exerting an ounce of prevention by:  
--failing to statutorily restrict the funds from being diverted by ODOT to megaprojects.  
Highway widening does not benefit Oregonians.

--punishing rather than rewarding fuel efficient hybrid and electric vehicles by setting the vehicle miles traveled fee at the equivalent of a 20mpg gas guzzling car. Vehicles that pollute less and cause less societal cost should be rewarded, not punished.

Thank you for considering,  
Helena