

Submitter: Carmel Pepiot  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation  
Funding  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3992

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I write to you as a concerned Oregonian and a constituent who values efficient governance, fiscal responsibility, and balanced public policy. With those principles in mind, I must express strong opposition to House Bill 3992, which proposes increases to the Oregon Department of Transportation's administrative fees.

At a time when working- and middle-class families across our state are grappling with rising costs of living—from housing to fuel to groceries—it is both ill-timed and tone-deaf to increase the financial burden through higher state-imposed fees, particularly for essential transportation services. These are not luxury costs. They affect everyday drivers, commuters, small business owners, and rural residents who often have no alternative means of transportation.

While I understand the need for state agencies to remain solvent and fund vital infrastructure, HB 3992 fails to convincingly demonstrate that these increased fees are a last resort. Before asking taxpayers to contribute more, we should expect transparent accounting, cost-cutting where feasible, and a review of internal inefficiencies within ODOT. Accountability must come before affordability is sacrificed.

Furthermore, increased administrative fees disproportionately affect those with fewer transportation alternatives and lower incomes. In many parts of Oregon, a vehicle is not optional—it's a necessity. Penalizing residents for accessing basic transportation services under the guise of administrative necessity sends the wrong message about this legislature's priorities.

I believe in pragmatic governance that meets community needs without unnecessary overreach. HB 3992 is an example of policy overreach that burdens the very people we claim to represent.

I urge you to reject HB 3992 and instead work toward solutions that fund transportation sustainably, without passing the cost on to Oregonians who can least afford it.

Thank you for your time and service.

Carmel Pepiot