

Laborers' Local 483
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Co-Chairs Wagner and Fahey, Vice Co-Chairs Bohnam and Drazan, and members of the Joint Interim Committee on Transportation Funding, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony. My name is Ryan Sotomayor and I am the Business Manager-Secretary/Treasurer of Laborers' Local 483, a union representing over 1000 public sector members serving in local governments and municipalities in the region. Local 483's membership includes frontline workers at the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) who maintain the city's roads, bridges, and sidewalks and are the essential workers who operate snowplows during severe weather events. Our membership includes workers in the Cities of Silverton and Mt. Angel who provide critical work to both cities around transportation and infrastructure.

These are the utility workers, asphalt rakers, and other skilled craftspeople that make traveling our local roads possible. In transportation, undone preventative maintenance leads to catastrophic failures. Sinkholes and fallen light poles that can cost ten times more to repair than standard maintenance. Our members daily face the challenges caused by insufficient funding of their essential work, including understaffing that both strains service delivery and places increasing burden on frontline workers.

I want to speak to the exceedingly important work that the Legislature is doing this special session to pass a state transportation funding package. In particular, Local 483 strongly supports and appreciates that this proposal continues to preserve the ODOT revenue split with local governments. This maintains a long-standing precedent ensuring that a share of this critical continuing funding is directed to cities and counties in order to maintain local transportation systems and keep the public safe traveling throughout the state.

This transportation funding is urgently vital for our communities and in all of the ways we travel, whether working or commuting on sidewalks or streets, in bike lanes, via transit, or pedestrian travel. We need safe routes to school, work,

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Oregon AFL-CIO
Northwest Oregon Labor Council
Oregon & Southern Idaho District Council of Laborers
Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council

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recreation, and every facet of our lives. This short-term funding package would help to keep the entire network of transportation stable across the state.

Not taking urgent action in the special session to address this funding shortfall would lead to harmful layoffs of front-line workers—including approximately 50 positions that could face layoff at PBOT if this proposed transportation funding fails to pass—as well as disruption in critical services that communities rely on. Failure to advance this funding will also undoubtedly result in placing further stress on local governments downstream who are already stretched as it is and often operating at reduced service levels today, resulting in worse outcomes and overall increased risk to the public.

This proposal is a short-term fix that would simply uphold a level of services that is already diminished in local areas such as the city of Portland. As such, LIUNA is eager to partner going forward as a stakeholder in discussions around long-term funding solutions that will help best stabilize our statewide transportation system into the future.

Laborers' Local 483 urges your support for this crucial transportation funding package. Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.