

September 2, 2025



Chairs Wagner & Fahey, Vice Chairs Bonham & Drazen, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Grants Pass, we write to clarify and reaffirm our position regarding House Bill 3991 and the amendments recently considered in committee.

We appreciate the opportunity to engage in this process and thank Representative Yunker for his continued advocacy on behalf of Josephine County. Like him, the City of Grants Pass supported the -17 and -18 amendments that were adopted in committee. These commonsense adjustments would have helped bring greater balance to the Oregon Department of Transportation's budget by prioritizing operations and maintenance without placing an undue burden on working families and small businesses.

However, as HB 3991 currently stands, we cannot support the measure. The bill proposes substantial increases in gas taxes, registration fees, and title fees. Our Council remains deeply concerned about the compounding impact of repeated or escalating taxes and fees at a time when households and employers are already struggling with rising costs.

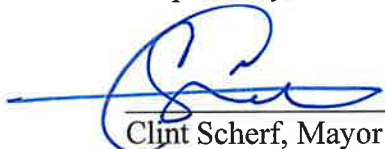
To be clear, the City of Grants Pass:

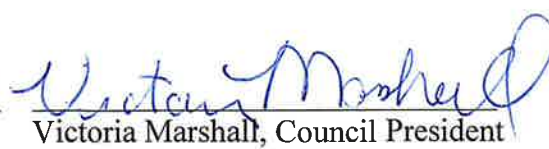
- Supports preserving the longstanding State Highway Fund distribution model (50/30/20 split among state, counties, and cities).
- Supports accountability measures, such as audits and stronger oversight of ODOT, so communities can trust that dollars are spent efficiently.
- Does not support HB 3991 in its current form because it relies primarily on tax and fee increases without adopting sufficient cost-saving reforms or prioritization measures.

We urge the Legislature to continue working toward a transportation funding framework that pairs revenue with accountability, transparency, and fairness, and that first seeks efficiencies and existing resources before raising taxes and fees.

The City of Grants Pass remains committed to being a constructive partner in ensuring Oregon's transportation system is safe, reliable, and equitable. We look forward to continuing this important conversation.

Respectfully,


Clint Scherf, Mayor


Victoria Marshall, Council President


Aaron Cubic, City Manager

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