



City of  
Portland



Bureau of Planning and Sustainability  
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April 16, 2021

Joint Committee on Transportation  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-chairs Beyer and McLain and Members of the Committee:

Thank you and the Road User Fee Task Force for your work on and consideration of HB 2342. As a local jurisdiction, we know how critical a sustainable transportation funding source is in creating and maintaining a safe, equitable and multimodal transportation system that allows people and goods to get where they need to go. Our transportation system has an ever growing list of unfunded needs. If we don't find a way to reverse the trend of declining revenue, we face a future where we simply are unable to meet the needs of the traveling public.

We appreciate the leadership the state of Oregon has shown in piloting and advancing a Road User Charge transportation funding mechanism. A Road User Charge is undoubtedly the transportation funding solution for the future. As you consider HB 2342 and the future of the Road User Charge program, we ask that you consider the following:

- The Road User Charge program should be designed to provide a financially sustainable funding source for both state and local transportation agencies.
- Just as there are currently local fuels taxes, both city and county locally defined Road User Charges must be explicitly allowed.
- Road User Charge programs should be structured in a way that allows for the future incorporation of variable pricing related to demand, climate and equity.
- As we transition to a profoundly different transportation funding mechanism, positive equity and climate outcomes should be incorporated into the foundation of the pricing and incentive structure for transportation funding.

We appreciate that HB 2342 directs the Department of Transportation to complete studies related to Road User Charges and equity, zero-emission vehicles, and medium weight vehicles. We look forward to seeing the recommendations resulting from these studies and we request that a robust set of local agencies and community stakeholders are involved with these studies and the development of final recommendations.

Thank you again for doing this important work to create a financially sustainable, climate friendly and equitable funding source to meet the many transportation needs of communities across our state.

Sincerely,



Chris Warner  
Director  
Portland Bureau of Transportation  
City of Portland



Andrea Durbin  
Director  
Bureau of Planning and Sustainability  
City of Portland



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