

I have had the privilege of serving both as a Planning Commissioner and as a Citizen Budget Advisor in Portland. In those capacities I've had the chance to prioritize badly needed improvements in our Transportation System Plan and then struggle to find ways to fund them in our budget as gas tax revenue loses buying power year after year.

While we have band-aided the situation in Portland with two local option gas tax ballot measures, that is not a sustainable solution, as the same decline in buying power continues to erode our capacity to maintain a transportation system that safely meets the access and mobility needs of our community. It's clear to me that we need to reform how we finance our transportation system at both the local and state levels. This bill is a small step in the right direction and I urge you to improve it and pass it.

Thank you.