

**Testimony of Anneliese Koehler, State and Regional Affairs Advisor  
In Support of House Bill 2342  
Joint Committee on Transportation  
April 20, 2021**



Metro is the elected regional government that serves nearly 1.7 million people in the 24 cities and three counties of the Portland metropolitan area. We provide a broad range of public services that includes land use and transportation planning, solid waste and recycling operations, housing and homeless services, management of parks and natural areas, and operation of major visitor facilities like the Oregon Convention Center and the Oregon Zoo.

Metro has been engaged with the Road User Fee Task Force (RUFTF) since its inception in 2001. We agree that we need to find new solutions for generating sustainable funding for Oregon's transportation system and have participated in multiple efforts, including the Task Force, to help identify these solutions. Most recently, former Metro Councilor Dirksen chaired the RUFTF and helped craft the proposal before you in HB 2342.

The Metro Council's legislative priorities call for supporting transportation pricing mechanisms that significantly and measurably reduce congestion, minimize carbon emissions, advance equity and improve safety. We believe that HB 2342 represents a good first step toward moving away from historic funding sources that depend on fossil fuel consumption and helps meet our goals for new, innovative transportation pricing solutions.

Thank you very much for considering these comments.