

Oregon needs a whole new way of thinking about transportation infrastructure. We are stuck in outdated ways of thinking, that somehow building more spaces for cars and trucks will help cars and trucks move faster. Evidence from many projects shows the opposite. We need fewer cars and more buses and bikes and scooters and people on foot. Every dollar we spend on transportation infrastructure must prioritize transit and active transportation. We must make it safe for folks to walk, to cross streets, to bike, to scoot. Fewer cars on the road will also mean easier passage for trucks carrying freight. We don't need tolling, especially not tolling to make money to build more roads. We need congestion pricing. Make it more expensive to drive during the busiest times, and we will greatly reduce the number of cars, especially single occupancy vehicles, on freeways. This is the only evidence-based approach to solve congestion. We are smart people in Oregon, and ODOT has a lot of smart folks, but we must break past old ways of thinking. They are damaging us and our air and our kids' future. Let's remake ODOT. We need a transportation department, not a highway department. It's time to completely rebuild this organization to address our major issues around climate change and emissions and to solve the problems we're having. This bill gives ODOT a slush fund, and we can't trust them to be good stewards of this money.