



TO: Chairs Beyer and McLain, Vice Chairs Boquist and Noble, & Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation  
FROM: Disability Rights Oregon  
DATE: February 25, 2021  
RE: HB 2985, Testimony in Support

Chair, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee:

Disability Rights Oregon submits this testimony in support of HB 2985, which would improve inclusion of communities of concern—racial, ethnic, and persons with disabilities—in the transportation advisory committees serving the State of Oregon.

We thank Representatives McLain and Reardon, and Senators Gelser, Riley, and Steiner Hayward for bringing this legislation forward and sponsoring the bill.

We recognize the integral role that persons with disabilities can play on the state's advisory committees related to transportation planning and support HB 2985.

**Greater representation of persons with disabilities on Oregon Department of Transportation advisory committees will create greater accessibility, enhance safety, ensure equitable investment and planning, and improve regulation**

The representation of persons with disabilities on the Transportation Safety Committee will improve the accessibility of the statewide transportation safety program, including better consideration of providing safety information in accessible formats, the inclusion of disability-related issues in transportation safety materials, and promoting additional research of disability-related transportation safety concerns. ORS 802.300 (Transportation Safety Committee).

Persons with disabilities will bring to light accessibility concerns with respect to the regulation of bicycle traffic and the establishment of dedicated lanes of travel that keep both pedestrians and bicyclists with disabilities safe and welcome within our communities. ORS 366.112 (Bicycle Lane and Path Advisory Committee).

Responsible investment in the transportation system over the short, medium, and long term, should include the input of persons with disabilities in order to make sure that accessibility and equity considerations are fully explored.

The Continuous Improvement Advisory Committee recommends performance measures and outcomes, and those should be determined through a transparent and equitable process that includes active input by persons with disabilities. ORS 184.665 (Continuous Improvement Advisory Committee).

As transportation advisory groups make recommendations about transportation projects, the input of persons with disabilities will better ensure that multimodal projects center principles

such as workforce and business equity that maximize the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the economic opportunities, planning, and execution of these essential projects. ORS 366.212 (Freight Advisory Committee).

As our state studies the current system of taxing highway use through motor vehicle fuel taxes and develops recommendations on alternative approaches, representation by members of the disability community will ensure that those alternative approaches do not have disparate impact on persons with disabilities. ORS 184.843 (Road User Fee Task Force).

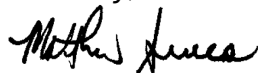
The inclusion of persons with disabilities will better represent the interests of the general public in the ownership and purchase of vehicles from vehicle dealers, particularly regulations pertaining to those who deal in modified vehicles. ORS 802.370 (Advisory Committee on Vehicle Dealer Regulation).

Persons with disabilities are high utilizers of our state's transportation infrastructure and should be included as a community of concern alongside racial and ethnic communities in the state's transportation advisory committees. Disability Rights Oregon urges the Oregon Legislature to enact HB 2985.

### **About Disability Rights Oregon**

Disability Rights Oregon is a statewide nonprofit that upholds the civil rights of 950,000 people with disabilities in Oregon to live, work, and engage in the community. Disability Rights Oregon serves as a watchdog as we work to transform systems, policies, and practices to give more people the opportunity to reach their full potential. Since 1977, the organization has served as Oregon's federally authorized and mandated Protection & Advocacy System. Disability Rights Oregon is committed to ensuring the civil rights of all people are protected and enforced.

Sincerely,



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