

**Senator Lew Fredrick and Representative Susan McLain**

**Joint Committee on Transportation**

**HB 2098-2, In Opposition**

**5:00PM on 4/27/2023**

My name is Douglas Kean, I am twenty-two years old and have lived my entire life in the state of Oregon. I am testifying in opposition to HB-2098, specifically the “-2” amendments in relation to the use of general fund dollars for ODOT road projects. Freeways should be funded by the people that use them, those who do not own a car should not be paying for car infrastructure. Oregon has operated on a “user-pays” system for financing this type of infrastructure for over a century, this model is supported by the Oregon State Constitution itself. This precedent should not be broken to fund two freeway expansion projects that have both seen multi-billion dollar cost overruns in the past couple years, even though neither of them have gotten any closer to construction.

Before embarking on these multi-billion dollar projects, ODOT needs to spend the funds they already have to maintain our existing infrastructure. Our roads and bridges remain in a poor state of repair. Our bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure remains insufficient and underfunded. The majority of vehicles using the interstate bridge are from Washington, yet Oregonians are expected to contribute to half the state cost for this bridge (see image below).

**Table 2-9 State-of-Plate on I-5 Bridge**

	I-5 Northbound				I-5 Southbound			
	Weekday		Weekend Day		Weekday		Weekend Day	
	Cars <sup>1</sup>	Trucks <sup>2</sup>	Cars <sup>1</sup>	Trucks <sup>2</sup>	Cars <sup>1</sup>	Trucks <sup>2</sup>	Cars <sup>1</sup>	Trucks <sup>2</sup>
Number Plates Identified	27,478	1,454	23,387	405	24,154	1,843	24,196	485
Washington + Oregon	98%	90%	97%	80%	98%	92%	98%	79%
Washington	66%	50%	66%	43%	63%	34%	66%	49%
Oregon	32%	41%	32%	37%	35%	58%	31%	29%
California	1%	2%	1%	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Indiana	0%	3%	0%	10%	0%	5%	0%	10%
Canada	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	5%
Mexico	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
All Others	1%	5%	1%	5%	1%	3%	1%	4%

1. Cars refers to FHWA Classes 1, 2, and 3

2. Trucks refers to FHWA Classes 4 through 13.

As a younger Oregonian, I do not want out state to be saddled with the debt from a freeway expansion project that primarily benefits commuters from out of state.

I would gladly support a project that uses state funds to be fully paid back by tolls. But the current structure for funding this bridge has Oregon and Washington splitting 80% of the bridge funding, and tolls paying for 20%. 100% of the costs should be paid by motor vehicles that use the bridge, as they will be the ones tearing it up.

The tollways should not charge bicycles or pedestrians, as their use of the bridge causes no discernable damage to the road and lessens congestion and deterioration of the roadway.

Oregon is facing a lot of issues right now; we have a finite level of resources to devote to resolving them. Funding mechanisms for ODOT could be expanded and/or improved upon, but we should not use our general fund dollars to fund these highway expansion projects and their multi-billion dollar cost overruns. I hope that my testimony encourages you to use our general fund resources to fund mental health treatment centers, schools, and housing for those who need it. Thank you.

Douglas Kean

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