

Submitter: TE Bak
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3231

As a bicyclist and frequent user of public transportation (as well as the regional Amtrak system) I strongly recommend and support and encourage upgrades to rail options to reduce traffic congestion and pollution throughout the state. We should also be weighing renewed ferry options throughout coastal areas and the Willamette and Columbia rivers. Quality of life in Oregon is the standard the state must consider when enriching transportation opportunities for its citizens. But how can our quality of life persist if the same quality of life is not extended to the species and ecosystems of Oregon's forests, coasts, waterways, and desert regions? The disastrous consequences of reckless development are self-evident everywhere in the world. More and/or larger roadways may increase capacity for vehicles but will also increase erosion and pollution (both noise and chemical) as well as hazards for wildlife. Oregon has the opportunity in this moment to redirect the course of modern transit with solutions which recognize and demonstrate the practical ecological, cultural, and socioeconomic benefits of legitimate environmental responsibility. Now is the time to seize this opportunity.