

February 5, 2025

Joint Committee on Transportation

**Re: HB 2931**

Position: Neutral

Dear Co-Chair Gorsek, Co-Chair McLain, Co-Vice Chair Starr, Co-Vice Chair Boshart Davis, and members of the committee:

I am writing to provide comments on HB 2931, related to the interstate bridge replacement project, on behalf of the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association.

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) is a nonprofit professional membership organization of over 800 planners and those who work with planning in formulating and implementing development and conservation policies at the state and local level. OAPA works to create sustainable and vibrant Oregon communities through professional development, advocacy for sound planning, providing resources to meet the challenges of growth and change, and embracing and promoting diversity, inclusion and equity.

As planning professionals, OAPA believes in the value of creating access to smart, clean multi-modal transportation options, including bicycles, walking, and public transportation. We also understand that Oregon faces many transportation needs, with many of our local communities statewide in critical need of infrastructure investments for safer streets, while mega-projects like the I-5 bridge also come due. As the legislature considers this funding mechanism, we want to stress the importance of securing a sustainable revenue strategy that aligns both our revenue and spending with Oregon's climate, equity, and transportation goals.

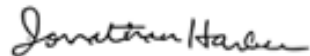
OAPA asks that HB 2931 have more public hearing dialogue before moving forward with a work session. We ask that the following comments be considered in developing and considering amendments to the bill.

- Prioritize multi-modal access.
- Prioritize safe road design for the most vulnerable road users.
- Prioritize reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and GHG emission reductions.
- Prioritize public health.

- Prioritize climate resilience.

As you continue to develop elements of the toll funding, OAPA asks you to emphasize the importance of and to engage in continued community engagement, with specific attention to underserved populations most impacted by these decisions. We urge the legislature to direct equitable participation practices and a clear outcomes-based approach when deciding on new sources of revenue.

Sincerely,



**Jonathan Harker**

Chair, Legislative and Policy Affairs Committee

Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association

[www.oregonapa.org](http://www.oregonapa.org)