

To Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek, Vice-Chairs Boshart-Davis and Starr, and all members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

My name is Maya Colclazier. I am from Beaverton, OR but living in Salem, OR for the past few years. I would like to express my strongest support for HB 3453. The incredibly positive impact this will have for travel between the Portland metro region and our state capitol, Salem (as well as Eugene later on) cannot be overstated. This will greatly improve transportation options, as well as provide benefits to those who continue to drive, as it will mean less traffic on highways, and a decreased need for highway expansion down the line, as well as a decreased impact on our already fragile climate.

As someone who cannot afford a car, but is eager for job opportunities in Portland, and the wider Oregon region, HB 3453 would provide myself and the ~30% of Oregonians who cannot or do not drive with increased access to all parts of the state. There is room here for economic benefit, as a group of people who currently may not be working or only part-time would have greater access to Portland, Salem, Wilsonville, etc. and other cities. Furthermore, the immense commuter congestion we see on I-5 would be improved, due to less people on the road in their own individual vehicles, taking up valuable space, and contributing considerably to our greenhouse gas emissions. This bill would benefit the economy, congestion, and greenhouse emissions all in one.

It's important to continue development and investment in our state infrastructure, and I believe this bill gives us a great opportunity to commit to that. We have a chance to build more livable, less car-centric communities that are connected to one another for everyone, not just for those with the privilege to afford a car and gas. This is part of an even bigger push to improve passenger rail and intercity transit across Oregon, and across the country. Our system as it is now is fragile and disconnected, and leaves people without cars isolated and unable to access other parts of our state, for jobs, education, recreation, etc.

HB 3453 is a vital step towards a future Oregon which is accessible, affordable, and interconnected. I hope one day for a place in which everyone can freely move across our state without requiring a car, and without the carbon emissions that come with one.

I am grateful for the opportunity to comment on this bill, and for the consideration you are lending to my testimony. Thank you for your time, and I urge you to vote in support of this bill.

Sincerely,  
Maya Colclazier