

- Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez and members of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony this evening. My name is Ryan Sotomayor and I am the Business Manager-Secretary/Treasurer of Laborers' Local 483, a union representing over 1000 public sector members serving in local governments and municipalities in the region. Local 483's membership includes frontline workers at the Portland Bureau of Transportation who maintain the city's roads, bridges, and sidewalks and are the essential workers who operate snowplows during severe weather events.
- I want to speak to the important work that the Legislature is doing this session to develop a transportation reinvestment package that will help support maintenance, preservation, as well as the completion of important major projects throughout our state.
- This transportation funding framework can serve to not only improve and sustain our vital transportation system that Oregonians depend on every day but also will help continue to support and preserve the essential services that frontline workers provide in local communities like the City of Portland.
 - Whether it's safe routes to schools, pedestrian signals, improved bike access, accessible sidewalks, maintenance, preventative maintenance, and the many other well known facets of transportation our members, and other union members at the city, are on the front lines providing deliverables to the city and its communities. The increased investments will provide vital support to meet local transportation needs which are great and diverse, through the State Highway fund revenue distribution from ODOT that cities and counties rely on.
- The Laborers' appreciate the Legislature's important focus this session on addressing transportation funding that will help ensure that our critical roads, bridges and transit systems can be improved and maintained, going forward. These investments will, in-turn, help continue to support frontline workers like 483 PBOT members in providing the essential services that our local communities count on to preserve and maintain our transportation infrastructure throughout the state.
 - Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.