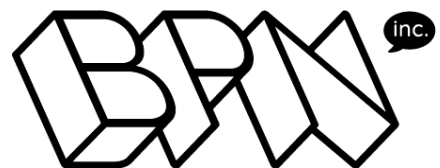
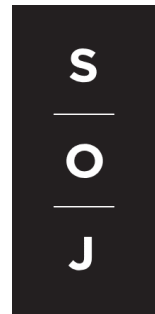


Neil Kelly

Hope Well



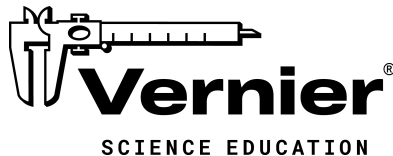
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June 2, 2025

Co-Chair Senator Chris Gorsek  
Co-Chair Representative Susan McLain  
Co-Vice Chair Senator Bruce Starr  
Co-Vice Chair Representative Shelly Boshart Davis  
Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation

Cc: Leadership

Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**Re: [Transportation investments for a strong Oregon economy](#)**

Co-chair Gorsek, Co-chair McLain, Co-Vice Chair Starr, Co-Vice Chair Boshart Davis, and  
Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

As Oregon businesses and business groups, we appreciate the challenges you're facing toward a major transportation package that bridges financial gaps and selects priorities to ensure a system that safely and reliably serves all Oregonians and businesses across the state.

At the same time, as you plan to raise nearly \$2 billion more per biennium toward a \$7 billion transportation budget, **we need ambition beyond shoring up maintenance, operations and completing critical projects. We need a whole system perspective with smart investments now that put Oregon on the road to success in the future** – driving growth, efficiency, and resilience through an increasingly electrified, multimodal, equitable and safe set of options.

While moving much of our economy, the transportation sector is also our largest source of greenhouse gas emissions. Fortunately, the same investments that prepare us for the future will

also reduce emissions, helping hit our climate goals along with cleaner air and better health for our employees, customers, and communities. We have not seen these investments sufficiently addressed in the frameworks and concepts published by the committee so far. In total, the following priorities, not including payroll tax-funded (STIF) transit improvements, would amount to less than 15% of the massive budget you are developing, and we urge you to include them.

### Vehicle electrification investments are good for business

Many Oregon businesses have already begun electrifying their fleets, from light duty vehicles to medium and heavy duty trucks. Other businesses see the growing advantages of dramatically reduced operating and maintenance costs, improved employee health, and brand benefits – but face hurdles from the upfront costs of electric vehicles and infrastructure. Oregon businesses want clean trucks – as demonstrated by the dozens of Northwest companies, totaling over 25,000 vehicles, investing in fleet electrification training programs in just the last 2 years. **With the recent delay in enforcement of the Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) rule, Oregon must invest in ramping clean trucks and infrastructure immediately so we don't face calls for another delay 2 years from now.** Our employees see similar challenges in getting their own electric cars. To keep Oregon moving forward, accelerating these competitive advantages for Oregon businesses, a future-smart transportation package should invest in:

- **MHD ZEV Rebate** – Helping businesses swap diesel trucks for cleaner options, creating jobs in charging infrastructure, and improving air in our most impacted communities.
- **Zero-Emission Fueling Grants** – Helping build the charging stations needed for electric trucks and cars, ensuring every community can be part of the clean transportation shift.
- **EV “Charge Ahead” Rebates** – Moving beyond the start-stop funding of this popular program, so low- and moderate-income Oregonians can save on fuel and maintenance.
- **Community Charging Grants** – Supporting charging at strategic sites (public parking, workplaces, and multifamily housing), prioritizing disadvantaged and rural locations.

### Stronger public transportation is critical to improving the whole system

The business case for smart transportation investments extends beyond the vehicles our companies use directly. A solid transit system is critical to give employees viable, affordable options to get to work on time. These options get cars off the road, help free up corridors for trucks and business logistics, and clean up our air at the same time. But the system needs to feel safe, clean, reliable, and highly available to drive usage. Overall, transit investments help make Oregon a better place to do business, a more attractive place to live, and a more compelling place to visit and spend money. We urge investment in these priorities:

- **Funding for transit expansion** – Enabling critical expansion of both service levels and routes in communities across the state.
- **‘Great Streets’ investments** – Improving high-crash arterials, boosting bus speeds and the flow for business logistics. This also improves biking and walking, discussed below.

- **Electric school buses** – Protecting kids from harmful emissions, reducing GHGs, and giving parents a better option to help reduce the traffic of cars driving to school.

### **Safe, clean personal mobility options relieve traffic and boost the economy**

To create a complete system, travelers need good options in their neighborhood or for the last mile of their trip. Investments that increase biking and walking are also the most cost-effective ways to reduce VMTs, again opening up roads for trucks. Attractive, walkable, bikeable areas also draw tourism and support main street businesses. We urge the following investments:

- **E-Bike Subsidies** – Making car-free trips easier for everyone, reducing congestion, and boosting spending and activity at local businesses.
- **Safe Routes to School** – Reducing parents' driving and congestion, while protecting our youngest travelers and building better transportation habits from an early age.
- **Off Road Paths and Trails** – Strengthening fast, easy, non-road commuting corridors for thousands of bikers, another low cost solution to get hundreds of cars off the roads.

Looking to longer term solutions, we recommend a seed investment toward expanded rail transportation (Oregon Rail) to eventually grow our use of the most efficient mode available.

In an era when we cannot expect federal leadership on these priorities, Oregon must take the responsibility to invest and ensure a strong transportation system – the underlying infrastructure that enables our economic engines to thrive.

As this committee completes the daunting task ahead, **we urge a complete system perspective, looking beyond maintenance and projects, making specific investments toward an efficient, safe, multimodal, equitable, climate-smart transportation future that serves all Oregonians and supports our economy well into the future.**

Thank you for your service to Oregon.

Sincerely,

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B-Line Urban Delivery  
Birdsmouth Design-Build  
BPN  
Brockman Climate  
Strategies  
Cascade Microtech, Inc.  
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Twenty Ideas  
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Well Endowed  
Philanthropy  
ZERO Coalition

*This letter was organized by Oregon Business for Climate. \*Added to list after 6/2.*