

Submitter: John Perona

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

As a healthy climate advocate, I'm writing in support of this bill because some of the funding will indirectly support the transition to a net zero carbon economy. In particular, by emphasizing road repair and maintenance, the monies provided to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund will help improve fuel efficiency and decrease vehicle miles traveled. Also, the dedication of some monies from the increased privilege tax to the Zero-Emission Incentive Fund, will be helpful.

However, I also want to note that the bill in its present form is a missed opportunity to directly infuse the urgency of the zero carbon energy transition into state transportation policy. Much could have been included to promote electric charging infrastructure and electric modes of transportation, especially electric school buses. It would also have been a good idea to require ODOT to conduct analyses of the climate impacts for major new projects.

Transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon. I want to emphasize that the legislature should be paying more attention to this issue as it considers amendments to this bill and plans for augmenting transportation policy in future legislative sessions.