

Submitter: Natalia Litvinka

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Submitted by Natalia Litvinka
Information Systems Specialist
Oregon Department of Transportation

Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding the ODOT budget and its impact on Support Services employees.

My name is Natalia [Last Name], and I work as an Information Systems Specialist with ODOT. I'm part of a small, dedicated team tasked with replacing Oregon's aging crash data system — a system that serves as the foundation for statewide and national traffic safety efforts.

Each day, Oregon is required to provide timely and accurate fatal crash data to the federal government. This data directly informs national safety strategies, federal funding decisions, and emergency response planning. Ensuring the accuracy and reliability of that data is not optional — it's a critical public safety responsibility.

I work closely with business stakeholders, engineers, and developers to analyze system needs, gather requirements, and ensure that this new crash system will meet federal and state standards. This is not work that can be outsourced or automated. It requires institutional knowledge, experience, and a deep understanding of the real-world impact of transportation data.

A common assumption is that business subject matter experts can simply explain their needs to a technical person and expect fast, accurate solutions. But in reality, data work is not just about writing code. It's about deeply understanding the constraints, rules, and regulations that govern state data. When dealing with critical systems like crash reporting, data integrity is everything. Even small errors can result in flawed outputs — wasting time and resources for engineers, architects, planning teams, and leadership. This level of awareness comes only with time and experience inside the agency.

Information Systems Branch (ISB) specialists bring not only technical expertise but also a comprehensive understanding of ODOT's business processes and goals. We build the bridge between policy and technology — a role that takes years to develop and cannot be easily replaced. While it might be administratively simple to remove a

position on paper, rebuilding that lost knowledge would take far longer and carry significant costs to the agency's effectiveness.

The potential for increased layoffs in our area is deeply concerning. These are not peripheral roles — Support Services is at the core of ODOT's operations. We are the people who maintain systems, ensure data quality, support safety programs, and enable the work of engineers, planners, and policy leaders.

I respectfully urge the Legislature to protect the funding necessary to retain Support Services personnel. We are committed public servants doing critical, behind-the-scenes work that ensures ODOT can meet its mission to serve the people of Oregon safely and effectively.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Natalia Litvinka
Information Systems Specialist
ODOT – Support Services