

Submitter: Sue Birge

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek, Vice Chairs Boshart-Davis and Starr, and members of the committee:

My name is Sue Birge and I live in Seal Rock, Oregon. I'm testifying today because I support a 2025 transportation package that works for ALL Oregonians and reflects our shared values of safety, affordability, equity, and climate resilience. In particular, I urge you to fully fund the Transportation Package (HB2025).

Oregon's communities need a better transportation system that is healthy, affordable, and safe. Imagine an Oregon where we all have the freedom to choose how we get to work, school, or the doctor without risking our safety. Where kids can get to school safely and reliably. Where public transit gets you there and back on time. Relatively small investments now can have huge payouts in getting all Oregonians where they need to go while improving our economy, environment, and public health.

It's essential to pass a transportation package that:

- Advances our climate goals.
- Invests deeply in public transit.

So many of the economic drivers in Oregon depend on a healthy natural environment, from commercial fishing to the tourist trade, healthy shellfish to balanced water use. Our coastal regions are becoming more popular and appropriate transportation planning is becoming critical.

New dollars must be prioritized to meet our safety, climate, and mobility needs. If we're going to ask Oregonians to pay more, we have an obligation to put their dollars to work for the future.

- Saving Oregonians money by expanding safe streets, public transit and passenger rail that helps us save on gas, parking, and car maintenance.
  - Improving air quality and lowering pollution by funding clean transportation programs to help low-income Oregonians purchase electric vehicles, put more clean, zero-emission trucks on our roads, and expand charging infrastructure statewide.
- Let's build a future where every Oregonian has access to safe, reliable, and sustainable transportation options. I urge you to pass a transportation package this session that moves Oregon forward.

Sincerely,  
Sue Birge  
Seal Rock OR