

Submitter: Bonnie New

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

My name is Bonnie New, and I live in Hood River County. I am very anxious to see a comprehensive transportation package pass this year for number of reasons.

Basic maintenance intending of potholes is critical. In places like Portland the winter weather isn't severe, but roads get heavy use and potholes are not uncommon. In more rural counties, the vehicles are not as numerous, but the weather conditions can be hard on the roads, leading to more potholes. Pothole are not just an inconvenience, they can be significant safety hazards and we all are exposed them.

I try as much as possible to use public transportation coming in to Portland from Hood River County, but connecting with public transit in the Portland area is not always particularly convenient or timely. That could be improved, and allow more people to use public transport both into the city and within the city. Failure to pass a transportation package in this legislative session will mean that public transit will be less reliable, with fewer buses than currently - definitely movement in the wrong direction!

Electric vehicle charging infrastructure needs to be expanded widely in the state. Having an electric vehicle now becomes less of a convenience the farther you get from a major city like Portland or from high-traffic areas like the I-5 corridor. But the distances driven in the rural parts of our state are great, and electric vehicles would sure help if the charging stations were more numerous.

My expertise as a physician is in the human health effects of chemical exposures. The air quality burden from trucks and heavy vehicles, particularly NOx (nitrogen oxides) and particulates from fossil fuel combustion, is significant in terms of public health. A comprehensive transportation package should address the need to replace gas and diesel-powered trucks with clean alternative vehicles.

Funding for safe routes for walking and biking are essential. Two months ago at the entrance to my neighborhood a young adult woman was almost run over walking down a main street in Hood River. She was walking against the traffic as she should have been, and was on the side of the road, as she should have been, but there are no sidewalks or crosswalks there so it's easy for cars turning onto the road to not see pedestrians.

For all of these reasons, we need to act now on for a comprehensive transportation

package, and embed an accountability system within it to make sure the priority interests advanced by citizens like myself are carried out by ODOT.