

Submitter: Leanna Valdes

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Vice Chair Starr, Vice Chair Boshart Davis, and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment,

Thank you for your work on the Oregon Transportation Reinvestment Package (HB 2025).

I urge you to pass a transportation package this session that delivers a safe, sustainable transportation system that offers Oregonians many options to get around. HB 2025 is an excellent start.

I appreciate and strongly support the proposed funding for:

*Wildlife Crossings - this is especially important to me and this should not be a controversial issue. No one wants to hit an animal while driving down a highway. That scenario is disastrous for everyone. Wildlife crossings have been proven to help this. Please make sure these are fully funded to be built where they are needed.

*Great Streets program, and

*Safe Routes to School program.

These investments improve the safety of our roadways for both motorists and wildlife and boost quality of life for all Oregonians. I also support:

*Increased oversight and accountability for ODOT, and

*Increased funding from a variety of sources for the operation and maintenance of our existing infrastructure.

I'd also like to see some changes so that this bill fully meets the needs of Central Oregon's communities:

Increasing funding for the Oregon Community Paths program, and fully funding transit. I am not sure that I am on board with electrification programs, but I would not want you to vote down this bill because of its inclusion. The rest, especially the wildlife crossings, is too important.

Investments in every part of Oregon (geographic equity). Large-scale and costly road

expansions in the Portland area demand trade-offs from funding for the rest of the state. By ensuring coastal, central, eastern and southern Oregonians have a fair share of the funds, we create a better future for everyone.

With access to safe, reliable, and sustainable transportation options, Oregon communities can thrive. HB 2025 is a solid map to help us navigate our way there. With a few additional adjustments, this bill will deliver the balanced transportation system that Oregonians need and want.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and for your work to deliver a safe, equitable, and sustainable transportation future for all.

Sincerely,

Leanna Valdes