

Submitter: Benjamin Platt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

This bill is better than I expected it to be, but can still be better. I'm an active transportation user in a single car household located in Portland. I'm testifying today because I want a 2025 transportation package that works for all Oregonians and takes important steps away from car-dependence through deep investment in public transit, safety, cost-effectiveness, and an overall more equitable transportation system that meets our climate goals.

When I'm trying to get around my city, I do as much as possible to avoid relying on my car, but safety concerns when I'm biking, intense climate-related weather events, and an overall disinvestment in Portland's public transit system mean that I frequently have to rely on our car to get places safely, on time, and without inducing pain or discomfort for myself and my partner, as we are both disabled. We are happier, healthier, and more connected to our community when we get out of our cars, and it's cheaper! But so often it's not a feasible option.

New dollars have to be prioritized to meet Oregonians' safety, climate, and mobility needs. We need to shift money away from huge, out of control ODOT megaprojects and towards more options like expanded passenger rail, regional buses, and expanded public transit. The investments this package makes in Safe Routes to School and the Great Streets program are particularly important, as they are lifelines for folks in our community. But we also need to prioritize completing our active transportation network. On-street investments must be matched with funding for off-street routes as well. Please include support for the Oregon Community Paths program to help fill these gaps.

I generally support this package, but it can be vastly improved. In the end though, please pass this bill and ensure these programs are fully funded.

Sincerely,  
Benjamin Platt, 97202