

Submitter: Anders Hart

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 Anders Hart, and I live in northeast Portland. 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 safety, transit, and electrification programs.

Oregon's communities need a 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 safely and in low-carbon modes. Relatively small investments now can have huge payoffs 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
- Funds safety first

I love using my e-bike for commuting, recreation, and everyday travel. It saves me money, helps me exercise, and reduces pollution. However, gaps in the low-stress network limit where my fellow Oregonians and I can safely go. Investments in active transportation infrastructure (and public transit that complements it) will give people more transportation options and enhance safety.

Living near I-5 and several other large roads, I experience the pollution caused by fossil-fuel transportation every day. Investing in electrification (electric vehicles, e-bikes, and charging infrastructure) will yield large public-health and climate benefits by clearing our air and mitigating the climate disasters we are already experiencing. Public transit investments will also contribute to these benefits by allowing more people to leave their cars behind.

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.

That means:

- Improving health and safety by funding popular but underfunded programs like

Safe Routes to School, Great Streets, and Oregon Community Paths.

- 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.

We can't afford to wait. 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,

Anders Hart,
Portland