

Submitter: Chris Dodge  
On Behalf Of: Wildlife Crossing Funding  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Co-Vice Chairs Starr and Boshart Davis, and  
Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2025, Sections 111 and 117, which would create the ODOT  
Wildlife-Vehicle Collision Reduction Fund with \$10 million per biennium.

Wildlife are struggling to move across Oregon due to habitat loss and fragmented  
landscapes and highways pose one of the biggest threats to their survival. Every  
year, many animals from Pacific martens and wolves to mule deer, are killed trying to  
cross roads.

These collisions also affect people. ODOT reports over 7,000 wildlife-vehicle  
collisions annually in Oregon, leading to more than 500 serious injuries, four deaths,  
and millions of dollars in damages, the highest rate on the West Coast.

We know that wildlife crossings work and can solve this problem. For example, I read  
that the Lava Butte underpass on Highway 97 has cut deer collisions by over 90  
percent.

By passing Sections 111 and 117, Oregon can take a meaningful step toward safer  
roads and healthier wildlife populations. This funding would build on the Legislature's  
past efforts and make Oregon one of the only states, alongside Utah, with dedicated  
annual funding for wildlife crossings.

Thank you for considering this seriously - I appreciate your time.

~Chris Dodge