Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek, Vice Chairs Boshart-Davis and Starr, and members of the committee:

My name is Britney VanCitters and I live in the Lents neighborhood in southeast 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 Great Streets, Safe Routes to School, Oregon Community Paths, public transit and passenger rail service. I urge you to also include electrification in the package by funding critical electrification programs to increase access to charging and lower barriers to decarbonization.

Currently, the package lacks any investments that address climate change and air pollution through clean, electric transportation. Without course correction, Oreogon risks making the climate crisis worse. Without key investments to put more clean cars and clean trucks on our roads, Oregon's transportation package risks increasing air and climate pollution. This is exactly the opposite of what we should be doing as a state in 2025.

Oregon's communities need a better transportation system that is healthy, affordable, and safe. Imagine an Oregon where we all have the freedom to choose how we get around without risking our safety. Where kids can get to school safely and reliably. Where public transit is convenient and gets you there and back on time. Relatively small investments now can have huge payouts 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 and funds safety first.

Climate change is the biggest issue of our time and it impacts every aspect of our lives. Transportation is the biggest greenhouse gas emitting sector in Oregon, making it all the more important that this 2025 package include policies to reduce emissions, like electrification and investments in multimodal transit. Less pollution means improved air quality, improved public health, and fewer climate disasters. We must do right by our communities today and for generations to come, and take bold climate

action. As someone who lives sandwiched between SE 82nd Ave and I-205, I know my quality of life would be improved by having more electric vehicles replacing gas cars, and fewer single-occupancy vehicles on the road overall, which would significantly improve air quality in my neighborhood.

We also must prioritize safety. Our streets must be safe for all people, not just people in cars, and this comes in many forms. While walking with friends and their baby in NE Portland, we navigated intermittent sidewalks and a lack of ADA ramps making it not only unsafe for baby strollers but entirely inaccessible for anyone using a mobility device. It's also important for the investments and improvements that are made are planned holistically. For example crosswalk beacons should be installed where pedestrians are most likely to use them and they should allow for safe access to transit stops, and new or moved transit stops should be placed to be accessible from existing crosswalk beacons.

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 saving Oregonians money by expanding safe streets, public transit and passenger rail that helps us save on gas, parking, and car maintenance. It also means 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,
Britney VanCitters
SE Portland, OR