

Submitter:

Matt Villers

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

I am a resident of Portland, in a neighborhood that's isolated and needs better access to transit. I believe there's a lot to like in this bill, but also aspects that still need improvement:

- Please increase STIF to 0.5% as recommended, so we can make transit better for the 30+% of residents who do not or cannot drive. It's not enough to just tread water when our safety, our elderly neighbors' freedom, and our children's future depends on us doing more. I understand that this means I will pay more in taxes, but I'm ok with this because I want our city and our state to provide good services and they need funding to do so.

- Please allocate as much funding as possible to support public transit and active transit, including and especially safe routes to school for kids. The chaos of school pick up and drop off with hundreds of cars at each school is a major source of traffic, pollution, and injuries. We must do better by making it reasonable and safe for as many kids as possible to walk and roll to school. This helps make kids independent and healthy, and physical activity is proven to improve academic outcomes.

- Please remove the provision mandating 12ft width on freight routes. This is unnecessary and locks away our ability to improve safety on some of our most dangerous roads. With hundreds of people being injured and killed on deadly high crash roads every year in Oregon, it is irresponsible to sacrifice so many lives as a favor to special interests.

- Please allocate funding for planning a replacement for the Columbia Blvd bridge in Portland. St Johns neighborhood is threatened by the specter of a CEI hub disaster and desperately needs an emergency escape route that we currently will not have when a major earthquake strikes. Over 20,000 people will be trapped. We must act on this ASAP, and the first step is dedicating the funds to get a new bridge design ready to go.

- Please invest as little as possible in widening freeways. It is a mistake. It does not improve congestion. This has been proven scientifically countless times. It will cost us billions. It will result in us bulldozing homes and business when we desperately need housing and jobs. We can and should make better choices, like removing on and off-ramps in the Rose Quarter to improve flow of existing traffic rather than inducing more traffic.