

Submitter: Stephen Docy

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,

I'm writing to you today as a resident of the City of Hillsboro to say that in general I support this transportation package. I believe it takes a good step towards preventing the problems that would be prevalent if a transportation package wasn't passed and to shore up funding with the looming lack of funding from the federal government. However I am writing to implore the legislature to reconsider when it comes to funding the so called "anchor projects". These massive highway megaprojects such as the rose quarter expansion are poised to make the state even more car dependent, cause even more pollution, and will suck up much needed funds for funding things like public transit and electrification efforts. As the impacts of climate change continue to worsen we cannot in good conscious continue to dedicate resources towards freeway expansions. We need to reduce carbon emissions if we are to seriously do our part to combat climate change, and to this end we need to focus our spending on public transit and other environmentally sound programs rather than more costly freeway expansions.

Especially within the context of the mismanagement and lack of accountability we've seen from ODOT already that would mean that these planned projects would most likely vastly balloon in budget, leading to even more problems down the line. Before we seriously consider spending billions of dollars on any kind of megaprojects we need to make sure that ODOT is held to account on these projects, ensuring that we know the full cost before shovels are in the ground and ensuring that the public is given a proper chance to have input on the projects and is able to monitor the progress of these projects. Without changes to support these goals we will continue to run into transportation funding problems that will rob our state's ability to stay competitive when it comes to investments in other areas that matter such as public transit. To this end I am asking you to support changes, such as those suggested by Moving Oregon Forward, to help bring ODOT to account and make sure our transportation dollars are being properly spent to the benefit of all Oregonians.

Thank you for reading,  
Stephen Docy  
Hillsboro, 97123