

Submitter: Max Farbman

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 Max Farbman, and I live in Portland. I'm writing to urge you to pass a 2025 transportation package that truly moves Oregon forward—one that centers safety, sustainability, affordability, and access for all Oregonians. I support the key investments in Safe Routes to School, the Great Streets Improvement Fund, and Oregon Community Paths included in HB 2025, and I strongly urge full and permanent funding for these essential programs.

However, I want to be clear in expressing my opposition to continued investment in large highway expansion projects. Decades of research across the country show that expanding highways does not ease congestion—it induces more driving, increases climate pollution, and diverts funding from transportation strategies that actually work. Instead of doubling down on outdated infrastructure, we should invest in proven, cost-effective solutions like public transit, intercity rail, protected bike lanes, pedestrian safety improvements, and electrification infrastructure.

Oregon's communities deserve a transportation system that reflects our values and our future—not one that keeps us locked into car dependency. Expanding options like transit, walking, biking, and passenger rail empowers people of all ages and incomes to get where they need to go safely, affordably, and sustainably.

I also urge you to strengthen the package's climate and equity impact by:

Including robust funding for electrification programs and community charging infrastructure;

Supporting a Luxury Vehicle Privilege Tax to ensure progressive, fair funding mechanisms;

And maintaining strong oversight and accountability for ODOT to prevent ballooning megaproject budgets and ensure funds are used for community-centered priorities.

Let's build a transportation system where every Oregonian can thrive. Please support HB 2025 with full funding for safety, active transportation, public transit, and climate-forward solutions—and say no to wasteful highway expansions.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,
Max Farbman
Portland, Oregon