

Submitter: Heather Ikeler
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Dear Joint Committee on Transportation,

I am writing today to ask you to support a safe, fair, and accountable transportation package this session.

Safe: Whether we are driving, walking, biking, or taking transit, Oregonians like me deserve the right to safely get around their neighborhoods and across the state. Yet decades of disinvestment in the basic maintenance and safety of our state highways and neighborhood roads have left us with perilously unsafe streets, with devastating consequences. Traffic fatalities in Oregon are up an astonishing 70% since 2010.

? Ensure \$200 million per year (\$400 million per biennium) is included in the transportation package for the Great Streets, Jurisdictional Transfer, and Safe Routes to School programs.

Fair: Oregon is facing a transit crisis. Across the state—from rural districts to urban centers—public transit agencies are sounding the alarm: without additional funding, essential transit service will be slashed, workers will be laid off, and thousands of Oregonians will be left stranded without reliable and affordable access to jobs, health care or education.

? Prioritize a phased increase to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) payroll tax, to reach ½ of 1% by 2033 to ensure there are no cuts to local transit service.

Accountable: The 2025 transportation package is an opportunity to bring climate and cost accountability to Oregon's transportation system. As we invest in preserving our roads and bridges, we must also ensure the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is held to clear standards that curb carbon emissions and rein in skyrocketing megaproject costs.

? Require ODOT to evaluate the projected greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled for all future highway projects as part of its project selection criteria.

One in three Oregonians cannot or do not drive. We need a transportation system

that is safe and fair for all Oregonians. I urge you to pass a 2025 transportation package that preserves our transit operations and basic road maintenance