

Submitter: Cecilia Smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

My name is Cecilia and I represent NW Portland. While my costs from this bill would be limited, as I bike commute, there are some things I'd want this bill to address, and some constituents I'd hope could receive consideration.

I'm aware this bill strives to cover road repairs, and fund some infrastructure projects; it might also have the side effect of persuading more people to take public transportation or bike, carpool, or otherwise reduce time in their car. I'd hope this bill would allocate some funds to improve alternative infrastructure (rather than widening busy roads, which doesn't generally reduce traffic) and make these alternative forms of transportation more accessible. For example, including credits to certain groups of people to purchase e-bikes or make public transit more widely affordable and accessible (especially in Southwest Portland and other underserved parts of town) would be great additions. Updating roads that are particularly dangerous for pedestrians or bicyclists, especially in Southwest Portland, would be another fantastic addition. I'd want any transportation bill to try to make transportation healthier, safer, and more accessible to everyone rather than prolong and extend car-only infrastructure.

Some people might also struggle with the additional costs, especially those that have long commutes to work that require more gas, and especially amidst the general economic stress we're all currently facing. My hope would be that any bill around transportation would also consider something like credits or benefits to employers who allow employees to work from home more frequently - this is something that saves funds for many, takes more cars off the road/removes some pressure from infrastructure, and has added quality of life benefits beyond transportation. While the implication of taxes on gas and cars is that it is the choice of the individual to drive (like it's the choice of an individual to drink soda and consume soda taxes), driving is less a choice and more a necessity in our society - I would like to see a transportation bill actually build more transportation choice into our lives. I feel this is missing from the bill.

Otherwise, I do recognize the need to fund infrastructure improvements, and understand the money needs to come from somewhere - I just hope for more.