



JACKSON COUNTY

Oregon

Board of Commissioners

Rick Dyer (541) 774-6118
Randy Sparacino (541) 774-6119
Colleen Roberts (541) 774-6117
Fax: (541) 774-6705

10 South Oakdale, Room 214
Medford, Oregon 97501
BoC-CAO_Admin@jacksoncountyor.gov

June 12, 2025

Oregon State Legislature
Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment

RE: Written Testimony Relating to Oregon House Bill 2025 (2025)

Dear Co-Chair Gorsek, Co-Chair McLain, Co-Vice Chair Starr, Co-Vice Chair Boshart Davis, and
Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment:

We, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners, want to express our gratitude for the hard work that this Committee has undertaken in the past year to help address the statewide transportation funding crisis. Jackson County continues to be impacted by rapidly rising infrastructure costs, both operational and capital construction expenses, in regard to our transportation system. We fear that without an immediate fix in the current session, both State and local transportation networks will erode. This will place a tremendous burden on our residents which will have to be paid for by future generations, with interest.

It is difficult to wholeheartedly support HB 2025 when revenue projections are not available. That said, we strongly support the Committee's proposed language that maintains the historic 20/30/50 percent split of the State Highway Fund. However, grant programs and anchor project funding that is distributed from the State Highway Fund prior to distribution to local governments must not severely impact city and county portions of the funding. Local governments have independent, critical transportation needs that must be funded to be addressed, and diverting revenue to grant programs and anchor projects puts the entire transportation system in danger. For this reason, we ask for an amendment removing the funding allocated in the Bill for the Great Streets Grant program.

As HB 2025 is considered by this Committee, we strongly support that the legislation continues to focus on the basics of road maintenance and operations, while taking the economic conditions of our constituents into consideration. We must focus on improving our roadways, not implementing new policies and programs at the expense of our citizen's pocketbooks.

Furthermore, we believe you must hold the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) accountable for their project delivery woes, which this legislation begins to accomplish, and to ensure they are focused on getting back to the basics as well. ODOT has significantly wandered off its mission, focusing on issues which the majority of Oregonians do not prioritize, all while our State highways and bridges continue to deteriorate.

Our roads and bridges must be in the condition of which we all can be proud. A successful transportation system is vital to every aspect of our society and must not be jeopardized by those seeking to pursue other goals through this legislation.


We, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners, appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2025, which is of statewide importance. We support the passage of a bipartisan transportation package in the current legislative session.

Sincerely,

JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Colleen Roberts, Chair



Rick Dyer, Commissioner



Randy Sparacino, Commissioner

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By: Online Submission