

Submitter: Rand Schenck

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 Rand Schenck and I live in Portland. I recognize that developing a comprehensive transportation package for the state is incredibly challenging, and I applaud the efforts you have made so far to listen and respond to folks. I moved to Oregon in 1995 because of its comprehensive state-wide land use planning, its beach protection programs, its bottle bills. These are some of the things that make Oregon special.

Our transportation for the future should work to make Oregon even more special. To do so please make this package even better. I recommend that you address several key needs:

1. I want to buy an electric vehicle, and I want all of us to have cleaner air, but several barriers are in the way. You can help by: providing more incentives to purchase electric vehicles; significantly increasing the number of and availability of public charging stations; and rapidly electrifying those trucks that are the biggest polluters on our roads.
2. I am an avid bike rider and use my bike to get around much more than I use my car. While I appreciate that you are looking to fund some well regarded street safety programs, you need to do even more. We need increased funding for off-street networks and trails that make it even easier for folks to get to where they need to go – schools, work, seeing friends in other neighborhoods.
3. I try to use transit to visit friends I know people on the coast or in nearby towns but options for visiting them are very limited. We need more intercity transportation options. Please make passenger rail a much higher priority.

Lastly, we need to avoid, if at all possible, major highway expansions here in Portland. Rather we need to enable transit, bikes, walking to be a much more realistic option for getting where we need to go. Focus first on repairing what is broken – potholes in particular – and in making our streets safer.

Thanks for this opportunity to weigh in on this vital need we all have to move from place to place in a way that does not contribute to the climate crisis, that is efficient, and that is safe.

Sincerely,

Rand Schenck