

Submitter: Erin Rasmussen

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 Erin Rasmussen, and I live in Beaverton. I'm testifying today because I support a 2025 transportation package that works for ALL Oregonians and reflects our shared values of safety, affordability, equity, and climate resilience. In particular, I urge you to support a forthcoming amendment that will create a new, progressive Luxury Vehicle Sales Tax. This will enable needed clean vehicle investments to reduce pollution, protect public health, and support Oregon jobs.

Oregon's communities need improvements to our transportation system that are healthy, affordable, and safe. Imagine an Oregon where we all are able to safely get to work (or school), the stores, appointments, and homes. Relatively small investments now can have major economic and social benefits by helping all Oregonians get where they need to go while improving our environment and public health.

It's essential to pass a transportation package that:

Invests deeply in public transit.

Makes it easier for folks to get to appointments, work (school), and home, especially if they are elderly or disabled.

My oldest teen benefits from infrastructure that makes it a lot easier for them to get to school, events, and home through public transport, and it's not only less expensive, it gives them independence, and it's a huge relief to our family not to have to have another car. My youngest is disabled, and getting around is a lot harder and I end up driving them to appointments, which means I need to take time off from work, and they don't get to go out and do as many things. ADA improvements at our local grocery parking lot have made a huge positive difference for my youngest, and for everyone with a stroller, a walker or a grocery cart. Even small improvements, make it much easier for our community members to actively contribute and participate in public life.

New dollars must be prioritized to meet our safety, climate, and mobility needs. If we're going to ask Oregonians to pay more, we have an obligation to put their dollars to work for the future.

That means:

Improving health and safety by funding popular but underfunded programs like Safe

Routes to School, Great Streets, and Oregon Community Paths.
Saving Oregonians money by expanding safe streets, public transit and passenger rail that helps us save on gas, parking, and car maintenance.

We can't afford to wait. Let's build a future where every Oregonian has access to safe, reliable, and sustainable transportation options. I urge you to pass a transportation package this session that moves Oregon forward.

Sincerely,
Erin Rasmussen
Beaverton, Oregon