

Submitter: Fischer Jemison

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment,

Thank you for the work you've done to come up with this bill to invest in the future of Oregon transportation. It is critical that we backfill falling gas revenues and raise the STIF tax to prevent transit service cuts, and this bill accomplishes that. I urge you to not compromise on the funding mechanisms identified in this bill, which are critical to its success.

Please consider two changes to the bill as it currently stands:

For the STIF tax, bigger is better. While a 0.3% STIF tax is enough to avoid many service cuts, a larger increase would allow greater transit investment across the state. This would mean more service to connect Oregonians to work, school, and medical care. A 0.5% STIF tax, as requested by the Oregon Transit Association, would be ideal.

The first draft of the bill includes an amendment that would prevent lanes on state freight routes from being narrowed below 12 feet. This is a bad mechanism for ensuring cities can maintain freight throughput, and could hurt traffic safety improvements at a time when more Oregonians are dying than ever from traffic violence. Please remove this provision.

Thank you again for considering this critical investment in our transportation system,

Fischer Jemison