



June 12, 2025

Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment

Co-Chair Senator Chris Gorsek

Co-Chair Representative Susan McLain

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

Dear Co-Chair Gorsek, Co-Chair McLain and Members of the Committee:

The City of Medford wants to express our appreciation and thanks for your willingness to take on the very difficult issue of addressing the statewide transportation funding crisis. This effort involved your participation in road trips and community meetings throughout the state and countless hours of committee meetings and behind the scenes work. Your efforts are appreciated.

Like local governments across the state, the City of Medford continues to be impacted by rapidly rising transportation infrastructure costs in maintenance, operations, and capital construction. Despite repeated fee increases paid by our residents, our pavement condition continues to decline, and critical capital improvement projects are delayed due to cost increases. We fear that without immediate investment; the City of Medford and most local governments are at a tipping point where transportation infrastructure assets will fall into severe disrepair which will cause safety issues for users and will place a tremendous burden on our residents that will have to be paid for by future generations.

As HB 2025 was considered by our Mayor and City Council, they clearly support a funding package that focuses on the basics – street maintenance and operations. Numerous sections of HB 2025 address this, and they strongly support the Committee's proposed language that maintains the historic 50/30/20% split of the State Highway Fund as well as indexing the gas tax to the Consumer Price Index. While they feel many elements of this legislation are on the right track, without revenue projections and without some selected amendments, they cannot wholeheartedly support HB 2025 as currently written.

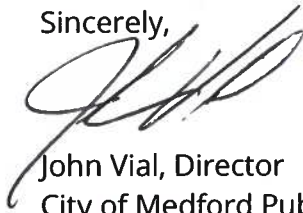
The City of Medford requests that HB 2025 be amended to take additional steps to hold the Oregon Department of Transportation accountable for their project delivery struggles. We

specifically request an audit of ODOT's internal project delivery and environmental review process for capital projects, as we believe many of their project delivery challenges lie internally within the agency and we are concerned that some have forgotten that their primary mission is to move goods and people. We fully acknowledge that inflationary pressures have impacted ODOT's ability to deliver projects, but we are also convinced that portions of the agency have simply wandered away from their core mission.

Additionally, we would request a careful review of HB 2025 to refocus this critical funding package towards programs that improve our streets and highways and not on implementing new discretionary programs at the expense of our citizens' pocketbooks. Our highways, streets, and bridges are the backbone of our transportation system and must be in the condition that 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.

Again, we appreciate your hard work on this legislation and for the opportunity to provide comment on this issue of statewide importance and we do support the passage of a bipartisan transportation package this session.

Sincerely,



John Vial, Director

City of Medford Public Works Department

c: Michael Zarosinski, Mayor
Medford City Council