



CITY OF SISTERS

PO Box 39 - Sisters, Or 97759 | ph: 541-549-6022 | www.ci.sisters.or.us

June 12, 2025

Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: HB 2025

Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment:

The City of Sisters supports HB 2025 and the investment in the maintenance, operations, and safety of our state highways and local roads.

While we are concerned about the increase in taxes and fees to our citizens, many who have to drive long distances to jobs, healthcare, and services, we understand there are no good options for raising revenues to meet our transportation funding needs. We are encouraged that there are accountability provisions in the legislation to ensure our public's dollars are spent efficiently and effectively.

Adequate funding for operations and maintenance is essential for communities like Sisters that depend on our state highways. Our small community of 2 square miles is served by three state highways including hosting the interchanges of Highway 20 and Highway 126 and Highway 242 and Highway 20. Keeping these highways plowed and safe during the winter is critical for our local and regional economy, and for the safety of our residents that need highways to commute locally and regionally to jobs, medical services, and schools. The high traffic and freight volumes that use the highway results in wear and rutting of the pavement and crosswalk striping which impacts the safety of our community and makes future repairs more costly.

HB 2025 will also provide more funding for cities to invest in our local roads by maintaining the 20% distribution of the State Highway Fund to cities. These funds are critical for funding essential local transportation needs such as pavement maintenance and pedestrian safety improvements. Without this increased funding, like ODOT, cities will be left in a position of stagnant or declining revenue that keeps our transportation infrastructure safe and maintained for all users.



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Further, the proposed dedicated funding for a Wildlife-Vehicle Collision Reduction Program will help fund much-needed safety improvement projects for our drivers and cherished wildlife. The Highway 20 corridor in central Oregon is one of the most dangerous roads in Oregon due to the high rate of wildlife-vehicle collisions. HB 2025 would take an important step for establishing a consistent funding stream for addressing this critical safety problem on our State highways.

Finally, we appreciate the inclusion of the increased funding for rural transit service. This funding source is critical for rural transit agencies, such as Cascades East Transit (CET), which provides service to the City of Sisters. Any increase in funding will directly benefit our community through the expansion of CET services which serve our community's employees, tourists, and residents. With our recently completed transportation mobility hub, additional transit service will provide more options for alternative transportation options that will safely serve our community, reduce congestion, and support economic development.

On behalf of the City of Sisters, thank you for your leadership and work on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Letz
Mayor