

Submitter: Jonathan Greenwood

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 Jonathan Greenwood, and I live in Portland. 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 fully fund TriMet and other public transit agencies across the state.

Oregon's communities need a better transportation system that is healthy, affordable, and safe. Imagine an Oregon where we all have the freedom to choose how we get to work, school, or the doctor without risking our safety. Where kids can get to school safely and reliably. Where public transit gets you there and back on time. Relatively small investments now can have huge payouts in getting all Oregonians where they need to go while improving our economy, environment, and public health.

It's essential to pass a transportation package that:

Advances our climate goals.

Invests deeply in public transit.

Climate-forward transportation is important to me for the reasons of improved air quality, less pollution, less climate disasters. Public transit makes my life better by making my community more accessible to all people. Less reliance on cars increases freedom of mobility. Denser neighborhoods are healthier for everyone. We need to move toward transit-centric communities and eliminate reliance on automobiles.

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.

Lowering household costs for families with a statewide program offering fare-free transit for riders younger than 22.

Improving air quality and lowering pollution by funding clean transportation programs

to help low-income Oregonians purchase electric vehicles, put more clean, zero-emission trucks on our roads, and expand charging infrastructure statewide.

Ultimately, we must stop expanding freeways and we must vastly expand systems like TriMet. This means many more streetcar lines, more MAX lines, more bus rapid transit lines.

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,
Jonathan Greenwood
Portland, Oregon