

Submitter: Eliza Allison

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 Eliza Allison, and I live in Portland, Oregon. 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, as a daily bike commuter and public transit user I urge you to fully fund public transportation and prioritize bike infrastructure.

Oregon's communities need a better transportation system that is healthy, affordable, and safe. Our lives are improved by strong public transit, safe streets for cyclists and pedestrians, and reliable maintenance of these public systems. 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:

- * Invests deeply in public transit, bike infrastructure, and passenger rail.
- * Funds safety first

As a daily bike commuter I see daily evidence of how Portland could be improved by greater investment in safer infrastructure. I often have to avoid bike lanes that haven't been completed or haven't been cleared of debris. And even though I route myself exclusively on greenways and bike lanes I still encounter poor drivers and unsafe road conditions. I choose to bike to prioritize climate-forward transportation in my life. Biking also provides me with community, improved personal health, and a greater connection to Portland. If more people are able to choose biking, then our city will be safer for everyone.

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.
- * Ensuring public transportation and passenger rail has dedicated, robust, strong dedicated funding streams, such as the Vehicle Privilege Tax for Passenger Rail to raise at least \$45 million per year or the STIF payroll tax at 0.5% for Public

Transportation by 2030

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

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.

Best,
Eliza Allison
Portland, Oregon