

Submitter: Sheila Blackford

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 Sheila Blackford, and I live in outer NE 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 safety focused public transportation.

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 our most vulnerable Oregonians, our seniors and children can ride public transportation without worrying about their physical safety. 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.

I believe that it is essential to pass a transportation package that:
Advances our climate goals by supporting electric public and personal transportation and invests in a safer expanded public transit system.

Climate-forward transportation is important to me because we are all suffering from adverse effects of global warming. Increased forest fires and decreased air quality. Accordingly, when we could not rely on being a one-car family, we purchased a Nissan Leaf and installed a ChargePoint charging station at our solar powered home so you could say I am driving a solar powered electric vehicle. I am satisfied with driving in the local Portland and Metro area. I would drive out of the area if there were more charging stations with fast charge chargers to facilitate driving and hope that these can be incorporated into our network of rest stops.

Presently, I do not foresee relying on public transportation in outer Northeast Portland as I get older. As it currently exists, there is an unacceptable number of broken down cars and trailers being used as residences lining major streets like Burnside, Glisan, and Halsey, while tents and visibly drug-impaired people crowd the sidewalks have become a deterrent to walking to bus stops and Max stations to take public transportation. Certainly our quality of life would be better if the transportation system in our area had enhanced safety measures.

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,

Sheila Blackford
Portland, Oregon