

Submitter: Jay Thatcher

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

I support investment in transportation systems that will be useful for decades in the future. Let's not be tied to the petroleum-fueled single occupant unsafe technologies we've been bound to for the past several decades. Invest in the cleanest, simplest and safest systems you can find compromises to support.

I am quite concerned about a provision on the last page of the bill:

SECTION 160. ORS 366.215 is amended to read:

366.215. (1) The Oregon Transportation Commission may select, establish, adopt, lay out, locate, alter, relocate, change and realign primary and secondary state highways

\*\*\*, except that the commission may not reduce the width of an existing motor vehicle travel lane on an identified freight route to less than 12 feet.\*\*\*

This provision would hamstring our state's transportation engineers and planners, mandate revision of ODOT's highway design manual, and infringe on the safety of Oregonians using our roads. Our neighborhood and our city have invested time in a plan for the freight route that runs through SE Corvallis. Our neighborhood resembles others in almost every Oregon town. Please don't delve hamhandedly into designs and plans that should be made locally.

Freight operators clearly want wide lanes to carry larger trucks. Safety advocates want narrower lanes to lower speeds.

The recently established plan for SE Third St. in Corvallis includes reducing the lane widths in at least one section to 11 feet. We've had enough of 12 foot lanes. The still-grieving families of four of our neighbors have had enough of fast speeds on this identified freight route.

I urge you to honor the memory of local citizens, your state planners and engineers and provide for safety for all of us. Keep the decisions that are being made by local communities in partnership with the Department of Transportation.

Jay Thatcher