

Submitter: Austin Eversole

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 Austin and I live in South Beaverton, near the Tigard border. I'm testifying using this online comment feature today because I strongly support a 2025 transportation package that will work for All Oregonians and make a strong impact on our climate resilience. In particular, I urge you to add electrification in the package - Funding critical electrification programs will increase access to charging and lower barriers to decarbonization.

How we are affecting the climate is very important to me. Our climate efforts may seem like a delicate dance at times - trying to balance different needs in our society while working on decarbonization and cleaning up our environment. But its a dance we can't afford to mess up - for our children and for their kids. If people are driving, we want that trip to be electrified not only because it advances us towards fuller decarbonization as we get more renewable energy online, but because it's more affordable and it protects our air. Move Oregon Forward wants to do this by electrifying the biggest and most polluting trucks on our roads, investing in public charging, and making electric vehicles (EVs) affordable for people with low to moderate incomes. In regards to protecting our air, currently air pollution from transportation is killing and sickening us, particularly in urban areas of our state. 19 of 36 counties in Oregon, from Washington to Malheur, have diesel pollution high enough to be carcinogenic. The package as it is currently drafted will fail to deliver needed investments in clean, electric vehicles or charging infrastructure, while simultaneously imposing punishing new fees that specifically target electric vehicle drivers. Worse still, this proposal follows months of legislative debate that resulted in a two-year delay in enforcing Oregon's Advanced Clean Trucks rule. This is exactly the opposite of what we should be doing as a state in 2025.

I urge you to support a forthcoming amendment that will create a new, progressive Luxury Vehicle Sales Tax. This change to the transportation package will enable needed clean vehicle investments to reduce emissions, protect public health, and support Oregon jobs.

Additionally, I would like to strongly submit for consideration fully funding Safe Routes to School and Oregon Community Paths, which will improve safety and quality of life for all Oregonians. Regardless of geography, political affiliation, or mode of travel, Oregonians said that safety is their biggest transportation need. I would love to see

more community paths. I also remember a time when many kids could walk/bike to school safely. When kids can walk and bike to school safely, they gain independence, stay active, and get better grades. Funding more Safe Routes to Schools will benefit not only students but our grandparents, teachers, and neighbors who rely on safe routes for transportation, exercise, and recreation.

It's essential to pass a transportation package that advances our climate goals, and provides more community paths. 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.

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.

Thank you so much for your time and reading this. And thank you for doing the job that you do,

Austin Eversole
Beaverton, Oregon