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June 13th, 2025

Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Gorsek, Chair McLain, and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Professional and Technical Employees, Local 17 (PROTEC17), I write today in support of the robust transportation funding contained in HB 2025. PROTEC17 represents approximately 10,000 public sector employees across the Pacific Northwest, including over 1,000 engineers, planners, information technology specialists, and technicians employed by the City of Portland.

Amongst our members, we represent over 200 employees at the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT). These members, many of whom manage construction projects as engineers and engineering technicians, have watched for the better part of the last decade as construction bids and materials costs have skyrocketed in price, while General Transportation Revenue funding from the state has not kept up. This has resulted in years of budget cuts in PBOT. Quite bluntly, at the beginning of this budget year PBOT was already at a significantly reduced capacity compared to need.

Without the funding contained in a robust version of HB 2025, there will be dozens of jobs lost at PBOT. Beyond the economic cost of families losing direct access to this income, this will result in project delays and loss of institutional knowledge. In addition, a critically understaffed bureau will be increasingly reliant on contracting out vital work, which in turn results in higher costs and loss of transparency and accountability in public improvement projects.

We know that transportation infrastructure is one of the most important things the public can invest in. We all rely on our roads and highways, regardless of our method of use. We all need the economic benefits they provide. Deferred maintenance has cost the taxpayers of Oregon dearly in increased long-term costs. Investing in transportation infrastructure is an investment for our lives today and the future of Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration, and we respectfully ask that you join PROTEC17 members in supporting a significant increase in transportation funding in HB 2025.

Sincerely,

Elliot Levin
Research Director and Oregon Legislative Advocate