

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Vice Chair Starr, Vice Chair Boshart Davis, and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment,

I urge you to pass HB 2025, which goes a good ways toward improved transportation in our state.

Especially important is the proposed funding for wildlife crossings and safe routes to school. Also, as a resident of a city that is bisected by a State Highway, I applaud more work on the 'great streets program.'

We in Central Oregon have grave concerns, however, about the distribution of transportation funds throughout the state. We hope that this bill will increase the fairness in how our tax moneys are spent. Cities outside of the Portland area need help as we grow, especially the cities that are growing quickly.

Another concern is how ODOT works. In our experience these past two decades, ODOT has struggled to listen to local residents about how highways are 'improved,' leading to delays in construction and in some cases to suboptimal solutions. I hope you will find a way to increase oversight of ODOT. They seem especially reluctant to improve pathways for pedestrian and bicycle traffic, which are very important out here.

Again, I like HB 2025 but it needs some additional features to reach its potential. I hope you will agree and improve this legislation;

Thank you for your attention to my comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Orrin Ege".