

Submitter: Laura Allen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

June 14, 2025

Re: Suggestions for HB 2025, particularly for the North Coast

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

I want to applaud your work in addressing the serious deficits in Oregon's transportation infrastructure with HB 2025. Transportation repairs and major improvements are sorely needed if Oregon is to remain liveable for many folks and competitive for business. I live on Oregon's beautiful north coast, and as our legislators, Sen. Weber who is a member of this committee, and Rep. Javadi, can tell you, Hwy 101 in that area and Hwy. 26, really our only major roads, have become increasingly congested and are now far too narrow and hazardous; an unbelievable number of people die on them every year. They are known as "deathtraps", making travel along the coast and to Portland or other parts of the state dangerous. I know I, along with other residents, think twice about even using Hwy 101 or Hwy 26 on weekends or even during the week in summer and winter because of the danger. I'm sure tourists and businesses factor our poor roads into their calculus in deciding to travel here. Yet, there seems to be no plans to widen the roads or even add turn lanes, bicycle lanes, or sidewalks. I urge the Committee to work with our legislators to prioritize these roads on the north coast for major improvements; this likely means more funding for rural transportation infrastructure in HB 2025.

Another improvement that would help is more funding for public transit particularly given so many folks don't drive or don't have anyone to drive them around. We have an aging population that means more and more folks will be in need of public transit. We have a fairly rudimentary bus system now on the north coast that is simply inadequate as well as antiquated. In 2025, by now, we should have mass transit, high speed rail, or at least a robust bus system that would ease congestion on our roads and provide safe, fast transportation that connects residents, businesses, and tourists with all cities along the north coast and ideally Portland and the rest of the state. HB 2025 does not do enough to move the north coast or Oregon towards that goal.

We also know that for our future we must reduce the pollution caused by transportation. I urge you to increase access to electric vehicle charging stations and support programs that incentivize and destigmatize the purchase and use of electric

vehicles. Also, why wouldn't we want to support folks in reducing their costs of living by eliminating gas purchases for vehicles?

Thank you and as you move this bill forward, please remember our north coast!

Laura Allen
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