

Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek, Vice Chairs Boshart-Davis and Starr, and members of the committee:

My name is Selena Blick and I live in Portland. I'm submitting this testimony because I support a 2025 transportation package that works for ALL Oregonians and reflects our shared values of safety, affordability, equity, and climate resilience. In particular, I urge you to fully fund transit so that Oregonians can get to work, school, and the doctor without needing to drive. 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.

I currently live in Portland where we have the most transit options in the state, and I still end up driving most places because taking public transit to my destination would take 2-3 times as long and is often more expensive. Despite many legislators, staffers, and lobbyists living in Portland and commuting to Salem daily during session, the only options for transit are driving or taking several buses to then catch the bus from Wilsonville, or taking AmTrak which costs \$20 or more per day.

Before moving to Portland, I lived in Bend for two years and never took the bus once because the service times were so minimal that it was impractical for anything. The first year I lived there, my work shift started at 7:30am and there wasn't a bus that could get me there early enough. The second year my work shift ended at 6pm and there wasn't a bus I could catch after that. I would have loved to take the bus instead of driving to work every day but it simply wasn't an option.

I'm glad that this package proposal raises revenue AND new dollars must be prioritized to meet our safety, climate, and mobility needs. If we're going to ask Oregonians to pay more, we have an obligation to put their dollars to work for the future. That means saving Oregonians money by expanding safe streets for bike and pedestrian access, public transit, and passenger rail that helps us save on gas, parking, and car maintenance.

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.

Sincerely,
Selena Blick
Portland, Oregon