

Submitter: Ginger Pan

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 Ginger Pan, and I live in Portland and attend the University of Oregon in Eugene. I'm writing this testimony today because I support a 2025 transportation package that works for all Oregonians, regardless of how they get around.

Oregon needs a better transportation system that is healthy, affordable, reliable, and safe. Imagine an Oregon where public transit is not an alternative, but where it gets people where they need to go more efficiently than cars. 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. It is absolutely essential that we pass a transportation package that invests deeply in public transit, not just in our larger population centers, but also in less densely populated areas. In addition, strong investments in bike infrastructure will create a safer, healthier, and more resilient Oregon.

I regularly use public transit and bikes as someone who doesn't drive. I am incredibly grateful for the bus system in Eugene operated by Lane Transit District – it provides a valuable service to students, other residents of Eugene and surrounding areas, and tourists. A strong bus system allows me to be independent and less reliant on other people or ridehailing services for rides. Same thing in Portland - I live in the suburbs, and while I am grateful for the TriMet bus line and Ride Connection shuttle that run near my residence, they are not very frequent and thus not particularly convenient for many people that work in the downtown cores of Beaverton or Portland. Increased funding through STIF and similar programs will allow transit agencies to expand service to new areas, increase frequency, which leads to increased ridership, which leads to less cars on the road, making life better for everyone.

I also bike regularly, and while urbanized areas of Portland and Eugene have great bike infrastructure, outside of it, safety concerns often lead me to choose other options. Our roads are for everyone, not just for cars. Make that a reality by investing in bicycle infrastructure, like bikeshare, separated bike lanes, secure bike parking, and connections to transit on bikes.

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:

Fully funding Safe Routes to School - transit ridership and biking starts early, and by inspiring a culture of non-car usage, we can ensure that Oregon is climate resilient and safe in the future. Funding free transit passes for youth and young adults also inspires transit ridership, and by doing so, you inspire the next generation of Oregonians to choose more climate-friendly, safe, and reliable transportation options.

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,  
Ginger Pan  
Eugene and Portland, Oregon