

Submitter: Laurie Doigherty

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Chairs Pham and McLain, My name is Laurie Dougherty. I live in Salem. I am a Co-Coordinator of 350 Salem OR, however, I am speaking for myself in order to draw on my experience as an older person who does not drive, and my experience as a student of and activist concerning climate change which predates any organizational affiliation.

I must admit to being confused about exactly what is and is not in HB2025A at this point, so I'm going to be brief and speak in general terms. I will be 80 years old next month and I do not have a car. I live near downtown Salem and walk and take the bus for most of my daily activities. For trips to Portland and Eugene and beyond, even far beyond, I usually take Amtrak. Occasionally I get a ride or take a cab, and on rare occasions fly. As with so many people who have testified, safety and access to multimodal transportation options are very important.

Safe and accessible multimodal transportation options are also important for reducing vehicle miles traveled in motor vehicles and meeting Oregon's climate goals. For safety's sake, roads need maintenance. What we don't need are the mega, so called anchor projects that will only induce more traffic, and increase greenhouse gas and toxic emissions.

There is a concept in economics called sunk costs and the related sunk cost fallacy.

This is a brief description excerpt from Investopedia on Avoiding Sunk Costs

<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/s/sunkcost.asp#toc-the-sunk-cost-fallacy>

"The Bottom Line

Sunk costs are expenses, whether time, money, or effort that can't be recovered, yet they often influence future decisions—much to the detriment of the individual or business.

The sunk cost fallacy makes continuing with a failed decision seem like the right course, however, a conscious effort needs to be made to recognize the bias and make better decisions. Setting clear limits, seeking an outside perspective, and considering future returns can help avoid sinking more resources into a failed enterprise."

Thank you.