

To: Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment

From: Jason Lawrence, Vice President, ODOT 730 – SEIU 503

Date: June 26, 2025

RE: TRIP Transportation Package

For the record, my name is Jason Lawrence, and I serve as Vice President of Sublocal 730. On behalf of the 1,775 represented ODOT employees, I am speaking in support of the TRIP Transportation Package. Without a substantive funding package, ODOT will be forced to lay off up to 1,000 workers, more than a fifth of our workforce. Job cuts to ODOT are not in the interest of Oregon residents, taxpayers or those traveling through our beautiful state.

I would like to thank the co-chairs and members of the committee for what has been more than 18 months of work and your willingness to continually return to the drawing board and negotiate a package. We need this sort of brave and bold leadership as cuts to ODOT's workforce would have dire costs across the state, particularly in coastal and rural communities.

You have heard testimony from our members from those rural and coastal communities where they have shared their stories of literally saving lives. Our members are first responders - and in many communities, the only responders - and cuts to their crews mean cuts to families and communities in Oregon. Fewer ODOT workers will guarantee two results: unmanageable degradation of our state's vital infrastructure system, and an increase in injuries and death along that system. Injuries and death not only to travelers, mind you, but also to our undermanned crews risking their lives to maintain the system.

Every call to 911 or Ask ODOT to report a highway-related emergency is a call to your office as an elected official. The quality of the infrastructure and the safety of those traveling along it reflects your commitment to the safety of your constituents.

The further our state kicks transportation funding down the road, the more costly it gets. You have a choice to make *right now*: raise revenue to keep skilled ODOT workers, committed to public service and the maintenance of our infrastructure, or allow the state's most valuable asset, our multimodal transportation system, to crumble.

You have the constitutional authority to fund our transportation system. Please be brave and bold and do so.

Sincerely,

Jason Lawrence

Vice President, ODOT Sublocal 730 - SEIU 503