

Submitter: Helena Birecki

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Dear Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment and all legislators,

Being that the session is out of time, it is important that a transportation bill be passed. As someone who gets around on bicycle and the bus, and knowing that about 30% of Oregonians don't or can't drive, the funding for transit which will allow bus systems across Oregon to keep running is absolutely crucial. It is also important that potholes get fixed, and that pedestrian and bicycle paths be improved too. This bill provides for much of that need.

Do I wish the taxation system were more progressive? YES.

Do I wish that the Oregon legislature would STOP spending money on mega-projects that increase pollution by expanding highways? YES

Do I wish the bill incentivized rather than penalized electric vehicles? YES

Is it the right call to put hundreds of hardworking bus drivers out of work, and keep many thousands of people from getting to work because the bill has serious flaws?  
No.

So I recognize that, despite all its flaws, this transportation bill should be passed because we all need to get where we're going and the roads and transit systems are -- and need to be-- funded by the state.

So pass this bill, and then come back and FIX IT.

Thank you,  
Helena