

Submitter: Seth Johnson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation
Funding
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3991

I supported the much larger transportation package. Oregon desperately needs to invest in transportation. I happily pay a high % of state income tax and would be thrilled to raise my STIF contribution to support more transportation -- it makes the state a much better place to live and supports my money.

Transportation is one of the key pieces of responsibility the state has; it's the infrastructure that gets people from A to B. Failing to fund transportation is absurd when:

1. WE ARE IN A CLIMATE CRISIS -- it is absolutely absurd to be conservative about transit funding when vehicle emissions are a major barrier to hitting our state climate goals. Any reduction in emissions is good. It's too late to stop significant warming but not too late to make things better.
2. NOT EVERYONE CAN AFFORD A CAR -- gutting transportation funding will further impoverish many of our most vulnerable Oregonians.

I grudgingly support this bill as a stopgap/band-aid, strongly oppose amendments that reduce the funding level, and strongly oppose referring it to ballot or any further delays in its passage.

If lawmakers want to threaten a walkout over it: please make them put their money where their mouth is. We can continue having a debate in this state about quorum reform, but only if the issue is front-and-center for voters.