

Submitter: Paxton Rothwell
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1543

Dear Chair Gorsek, Vice Chair Weber, and members of the committee,

I support the Measure What We Drive and the Guardrails for Good Governance Bills because ODOT needs to live in reality when it comes to planning for and providing highway projects. I am a young person living in Oregon. I've been shaping my life and my family's life around living and working in places that allow me to live a low-car life. I plan to continue living this way. I do not believe me or my children should have to pay for costly projects that are too focused on speeding up car throughput in areas where transit connections, denser development, or other alternatives that make driving less needed haven't been studied. Right now ODOT is pushing for expanding intersections as part of TriMet's 82nd Ave transit project in Portland. Even though ODOT's control over this former highway was removed and transit speed and transit oriented development deemed the goals of the project, ODOT is still making things harder to accomplish because of the agency's car-first approach to design.

I do not believe expanding car infrastructure is good for our health, planet, or economy. Let's reinvest in maintenance and transit and bike/ped connections.