

Submitter: Tanja Olson
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 want our transportation projects to deliver safe, transparent, and climate-forward results, while avoiding taking on unnecessary debt. With ODOT's loan payments surging by 400%, we need the Guardrails for Good Governance rules to stop the overspending and save money for tomorrow's road and bridge work. By making sure every dollar is used efficiently and oversight is tightened, we can fix our roads while keeping costs down. ODOT is taking on new projects we can't afford to maintain while neglecting the roads we already use every day. Oregonians are waiting for safer streets and reliable bridges, but those repairs are being sacrificed for new projects we haven't even priced out yet. Measure What We Drive fixes this by requiring every project to earn its funding through a public safety, maintenance, and climate impact score, ensuring we fix our crumbling infrastructure before we think about building more.

Tanja Olson