

Submitter: Ann Dorsey
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1543

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

I urge you to pass both Guardrails for Good Governance, SB 5143, and Measure What We Drive, SB 1542, so Oregonians will have a transportation system that maximizes its investments in safety, road and bridge maintenance, and climate impacts, and does not put Oregon's future at risk by taking on unnecessary debt.

Guardrails for Good Governance is important to me because current policies incentivize ODOT to take on more debt without a completed project plan that includes a full analysis of costs, trade-offs, and debt implications. This debt, a 400% increase in loans since 2007, means less money for bridge and road maintenance, seismic retrofits, and safety investments. There needs to be accountability, which this legislation will provide, by giving the public advance notice of upcoming meeting agendas, ensuring they have the information and the opportunity to engage in transportation decisions relevant to them.

Measure What We Drive is important to me because it mandates investment in existing roads and bridges when they are not meeting maintenance standards, requires ODOT to provide an assessment on how new projects align with transportation goals and to provide a public accountability dashboard showing how the agency is doing in meeting transportation goals.

A functional transportation system that prioritizes most needed work first, ensures projects approved are financially responsible investments, and allows public input and the ability to hold ODOT accountable is imperative for our future.

Please pass the Guardrails for Good Governance and Measure What We Drive.

Sincerely,
Ann Dorsey