

February 11, 2026

Senate Committee on Transportation  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR, 97301



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

My name is Mackenzie Springer, I am the Transportation Advocacy Manager with Neighbors for Clean Air, a statewide organization that has worked for more than 15 years to ensure that every Oregonian has clean and healthy air to breathe.

Oregonians need a transportation system that maximizes investments in safety, maintenance, air quality, public health and climate, and they deserve transparent access to how funding decisions are made. ***That is why I urge you to pass both Guardrails for Good Governance (SB 1543) and Measure What We Drive (SB 1542).***

*Guardrails for Good Governance* would ensure that ODOT cannot continue taking on debt for large expansion projects without clear oversight and a full accounting of costs. It improves transparency, helps the public understand how their tax dollars are being used, and creates more meaningful opportunities for communities to engage in decisions that affect them.

*Measure What We Drive* creates a transparent, public accountability dashboard that scores projects based on safety, maintenance, and climate impacts. From an air quality perspective, this kind of scoring system is critical. Transportation is the largest source of air pollution in Oregon, and highway expansions often increase traffic volumes, worsening both climate emissions and local air quality. Establishing a public-facing dashboard to monitor how major projects align with our state transportation system goals will improve accountability at ODOT and make this information more accessible to Oregonians.

We would also encourage consideration of public health and air quality metrics within the project scoring framework. While climate and safety are essential measures, local air pollution has immediate and measurable health impacts, especially for children, older adults, and people with asthma, heart disease, or other underlying conditions. Including a clear air quality or public health indicator would help ensure transportation investments deliver real, near-term health benefits for Oregonians.

With limited transportation dollars, we must make every investment count. Oregonians need a system that prioritizes maintaining current roads and bridges, improving safety, reducing emissions, and protecting community health.

These bills will improve transparency, accountability, and alignment with Oregon's transportation and climate goals. For these reasons, I urge you to pass Guardrails for Good Governance and Measure What We Drive.

Sincerely,  
Mackenzie Springer  
Transportation Advocacy Manager  
Neighbors for Clean Air