

Submitter: Kevin Kincaid

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On  
Capital Construction

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1601

Dear Senator Lieber, Representative Sanchez, and members of the committee

I am writing you in opposition to SB 1601 -3 and the redirection of funds for transit and bicycling to road maintenance. I am well aware of the situation regarding ODOT's maintenance budget. This has been a looming problem for years as the department continued to spend millions of dollars on highway expansions while neglecting maintenance. Oregon needs to grapple with the longstanding funding priorities of its transportation department. However, the decision to cut multimodal transportation funding in service of highways is absurd.

Oregon needs to invest in alternative transportation to cars. We have an ongoing climate crisis, and transportation is a major contributor of emissions. In addition, cars are expensive for individuals, and rising prices are already affecting Oregonians. To meet this challenge the state should be supporting building a strong rail network and providing multimodal paths that serve pedestrians and bicyclists. We should be helping students have safe biking routes to class, so they can adopt alternative transit early. Instead, this amendment would cut millions from these programs to fund road maintenance, while ODOT continues with plans for billion-dollar highway expansions.

Please preserve the following funds from any budget cuts:

- Safe Routes to School Grants
- Multimodal Active Transportation Fund
- Connect Oregon Program

Any additional funds for maintenance should instead be redirected from highway projects, especially highway megaprojects

Thank you for your time