

Submitter: Dan McFarling
On Behalf Of: self
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1601

I oppose the SB 1601-3 Amendment, more specifically those sections which transfer funds from rail and public transportation to road operation and maintenance.

Rail and public transportation provide Safe, Economical, Environmentally-sound and Equitable transportation. Our funding crisis is in significant part BECAUSE we have a transportation system based on single-occupant vehicles (SOVs). A viable economy and safe, healthy environment will not be realized if we continue to place primary reliance on SOVs.

Over-dependence on SOVs results in costs we CANNOT afford - NOT just high road maintenance and a perceived need to expand pavement, but costs related to health care (trauma and disease), housing, public services, emergency services - both public and private costs increase in conjunction with urban sprawl.

Over-dependence on SOVs leaves 30% of Oregon's people without transportation, increasing isolation, dependency and crime. Over-dependence on SOVs results in congested roadways and immobility, not mobility.

We cannot pave our way into the future. Nations with viable economies have balanced transportation systems, relying on a combination of roads, rail and public transportation, providing Freedom of Mobility for all. Shifting rail and public transit dollars to fill potholes is not the answer we need.