

Submitter: Catherine Thomasson

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or SB1601  
Topic:

I oppose cutting safety and transit funding. (Safe Routes to School, which helps kids safely walk, roll to school through education and infrastructure improvements. Transportation Operations Funds, a funding source for non-street transportation projects (including paratransit, rail, electric vehicle charging for rural communities and off-road paths). Connect Oregon, a decades-old program that funds non-highway transportation projects throughout the state.)

This is a blow to children and people who do not drive (30% of the population.)

This is being done at the expense of road projects, some of which were started without adequate oversight and funding plans. We lost 2 bills this session calling for review and transparency of all major funding/debt obligation projects. These need to return next session. Likewise all projects should be reviewed against metrics that are goals of the state and the department.

Lastly, poor engineering, costly outsourced consultants who do not follow implementation show that ODOT does not have adequate staff with engineering or project management skills. This needs an audit. Oregon will vote not to increase these taxes, (not my preference) but you can hardly blame them. I also blame the Ways and Means and leadership for not passing HB 4126 to call for clear budget analysis for baseline maintenance and preservation work.

Respectfully,  
Catherine Thomasson, MD