

Submitter: Richard Dolgonas

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1601

I appreciate the difficulty posed by the anticipated shortfall in ODOT's budget. However, I feel the draft recently released is not the appropriate course of action.

In particular, I would advocate referring to existing priorities to minimize damage to our infrastructure and programs that have finally been addressing the recognition that automobiles should not be the exclusive focus of transportation policy, and therefore, those areas should not bear the burden of budget cuts.

We all depend on ODOT and municipalities to keep our streets and roads safe and maintained well enough that they are not significantly degraded. But projects that do more than that should be examined with an eye towards postponing the work until the fiscal situation is improved.

After many years of attempts, our efforts to provide training to our youth in safe bicycling and walking behaviors have created an important system that is working across Douglas County to do just that. Destroying that system would be a tragedy. The Safe Routes to School program has also provided funds to make physical changes that improve safety to streets around many of our schools.

Furthermore, funds should not be cut that benefit the many folks who, due to age, disability, or poverty, are not heavy users of automobiles and have few options for travel as part of their daily lives.

Please reconsider your cuts and keep the relatively small funding available for these programs and instead delay other construction projects.

Thank you for your consideration.