

Written testimony toolkit



Written Testimony Toolkit - Transportation Package

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Help us support transportation that moves *everyone* forward.

The transportation committee is having public hearings this week and we need you to submit written testimony. This is a critical moment to show lawmakers that Oregonians support a transportation package that centers transit, rail, safety, climate, and affordability. Let's [Move Oregon Forward](#), together.

Submission details

- The hearings are:
 - **Tuesday, June 10 at 5:00PM**- ODOT accountability and 2017 megaprojects (and where we suggest climate and electrification focused comments go)
 - **Wednesday, June 11 at 4:00PM** - Passenger Rail, public transit, safety, and active transportation (bike/ped/roll)
 - **Thursday, June 12 at 4:00PM** - Operations, maintenance, and preservation
- **Use [Move Oregon Forward's form](#) to submit written comments by noon on Friday, June 13.** You will still be able to submit your comments through OLIS until **5 p.m. Saturday, June 14**, but the MOF Google Form will close

with enough time for us to make sure comments through our form are submitted by the OLIS deadline. (Once the link is available we will add it.)

- Once submitted, your public comments will become public information. Please do not include any information you would not like to make public.
- Use [this form](#) to sign-up to **testify in-person** until meetings are posted on OLIS, at which time we will close it.
- If you want help writing or submitting your testimony, email Move Oregon Forward coalition leaders annabellerousseau@verdenw.org and cassie@friends.org, or email AORTA's lobbyist andrea@aft-oregon.org

The most important part of writing effective testimony is to share your personal experience and perspective on what YOU want to see in Oregon's next transportation package. Need help? Use talking points from our [one pager](#) and [messaging guide](#) to write your testimony. Or, use the following testimony template to plug and play.

Sample talking points

Key messages

These will continue to be updated as information is released.

- ***Fight for Five***—0.5% to be precise. Without an increase in the Statewide Transit Improvement Fund (STIF), local transit providers across Oregon face devastating service cuts. *TriMet alone could lose 50% of its bus lines if the legislature does not act.* The Oregon Transit Association (OTA) says a raise to 0.3% is the **minimum** we need to prevent a massive loss of access to mobility for millions of transit users, but an increase to 0.5% would allow us to actually expand access. Tell Salem we're ready to fight for 0.5%.
- The Joint Committee on Transportation (JCT) should be celebrated for finally allocating dedicated funding for rail. If this package is passed, Amtrak Cascades service would at long last no longer be dependent on one-time cash infusions or receiving subsidy from the general fund, but instead have a dedicated stream of funding bringing up to \$50M/biennium. **We've got to let them know we love this!**
- We need to expand transportation choice while keeping costs down for working families and people with low and fixed incomes.

Rail, public transit, safety, active transportation (bike/ped/roll)

OUR ASKS: *Fully fund Great Streets, Safe Routes to School, and Oregon Community Paths. Fully fund public transit and passenger rail service.*

- 30% of Oregonians can't or don't drive. The lack of safe streets and paths disproportionately harms people forced to walk, bike, roll, or ride transit, leaving them without access to jobs, education, healthcare, and groceries.
- Regardless of geography, political affiliation, or mode of travel, Oregonians said that safety is their biggest transportation need.
- Transportation is the second largest household cost, and investments in public transit and active transportation saves money for households and the state. We can't afford not to invest in public transit.
- Investments in public transit and active transportation save money for households and the state because cars can be expensive to own and maintain for low-income and working class Oregonians.
- Our transportation system has big gaps that limit some people more than others. People with disabilities, rural families, people of color, and working folks have the greatest need for affordable transportation. If we don't put these communities first in our solutions, they'll fall even further behind.
- Oregon lacks sufficient intercity transportation options. By investing in passenger rail, we increase accessibility between cities and give Oregonians more choice in how they move.
- Rail travel is one of the safest, most sustainable, and reliable transportation options available across the world and in Oregon. Passengers can easily bring pets, bicycles, mobility devices, and more onto passenger trains.
- Tourists who fly into Oregon would benefit from more frequent and reliable travel options to move across the state without needing to rent a car, especially for tourists who cannot drive.
- I wouldn't mind paying more in taxes if it means fully funding statewide public transit.

Sample testimony outline

Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek, Vice Chairs Boshart-Davis and Starr, and members of the committee:

My name is **[ADD NAME]**, and I live in **[ADD CITY OR REGION]**. I'm testifying today because I support a 2025 transportation package that works for ALL Oregonians and reflects our shared values of safety, affordability, equity, and climate resilience. In particular, I urge you to fully fund **passenger rail and public transportation (or phrase your own way).**

Oregon's communities need a better transportation system that is healthy, affordable, and safe. Imagine an Oregon where we all **[have the freedom to choose how we get to work, school, or the doctor without risking our safety. Where kids can get to school safely and reliably. Where public transit gets you there and back on time.]** Relatively small investments now can have huge payouts in getting all Oregonians where they need to go while improving our economy, environment, and public health.

It's essential to pass a transportation package that: (pick 1-2)

- Advances our climate goals.
- Invests deeply in public transit and passenger rail.
- Funds safety first.
- Or, add your own reason to support passenger rail and public transportation!

Then, expand on your example by telling your personal story: (pick 1-2)

- Why climate-forward transportation is important to you (i.e. improved air quality, less pollution, less climate disasters).
- How public transit improves the life of you or your family.
- What would happen to you or your family if there were public transit cuts.
- An example of walking, biking, or rolling in unsafe conditions, incomplete sidewalks, bike lanes, or paths.
- How your quality of life would be better if the transportation system in your area had enhanced safety measures or better passenger rail.
- How non-driving modes of transportation save you money or otherwise are personally important to you.

New dollars must be prioritized to meet our safety, climate, and mobility needs. If we're going to ask Oregonians to pay more, we have an obligation to put their dollars to work for the future.

That means: (pick 1-2)

- Improving health and safety by funding popular but underfunded programs like Safe Routes to School, Great Streets, and Oregon Community Paths.
- Ensuring public transportation and passenger rail has dedicated, robust, strong dedicated funding streams, such as the Vehicle Privilege Tax for Passenger Rail to raise at least \$45 million per year or the STIF payroll tax at 0.5% for Public Transportation by 2030.
- Saving Oregonians money by expanding safe streets, public transit and passenger rail that helps us save on gas, parking, and car maintenance.
- Lowering household costs for families with a statewide program offering fare-free transit for riders younger than 22.
- Improving air quality and lowering pollution by funding clean transportation programs to help low-income Oregonians purchase electric vehicles, put more clean, zero-emission trucks on our roads, and expand charging infrastructure statewide.

We can't afford to wait. Let's build a future where every Oregonian has access to safe, reliable, and sustainable transportation options. I urge you to pass a transportation package this session that moves Oregon forward.

Sincerely,

Name

City, Oregon