

[County Logo]

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

On behalf of [Name] County, we would like to welcome you to our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our county's priorities on sustainable transportation revenue that supports a safe, functional, and efficient, statewide multimodal transportation system now and for years to come.

Oregon counties are responsible for the largest share of Oregon's public road system, with over 32,000 miles and over 4,000 bridges. [Name] County owns and maintains [#miles] road miles and [#countybridges] bridges. This includes [#miles] miles in poor or fair condition, [#countybridges] bridges in poor or fair condition, and [#countybridges] heavy-truck-weight restricted bridges.

Counties, like our city and state partners, count on the State Highway Fund. This fund is crucial for safety improvements and maintaining critical infrastructure that all Oregonians depend on — roads, bridges, sidewalks, bike paths, traffic signals, culverts, and fish passages. Counties partner with the state to support a safe and reliable multimodal transportation system that connects Oregonians and our economy. We respectfully ask this committee to uphold the, long standing, 50-30-20 State Highway Fund distribution formula that efficiently supports Oregon's cities, counties, and highways.

Over the last 30 years, our federal partners have abandoned funding Oregon's rural roads. Dwindling timber harvest receipts that historically supported county road budgets left a gap that has never fully been remedied. Comparative budget information e.g. In \_\_\_\_ (Year) we received \_\_\_\_ (high point in USFS Timber Harvest Payments) and now we would be lucky to receive \_\_\_\_ (last year's USFS Timber Harvest Estimate).] [Name] County depends on shared revenues from the State Highway Fund to bridge this gap.

Today, inflation, shrinking fuel consumption, and limited local tax bases, have required counties to defer needed safety improvements and routine maintenance work, resulting in a lower standard of quality and safety for the existing road system. Highway construction cost inflation has more than doubled our costs, while revenue has grown by less than half since 2017.

[NAME] County depends on the State Highway Fund 50-30-20 allocation shares to fund critical capital improvements, such as [ROAD NAME, ROAD NAME, and ROAD NAME], and maintain [NUMBER] miles of road in need of preservation, maintenance, and safety improvements.

House Bill 2017, Oregon's historic transportation funding package helped many counties maintain services and preserve our roads. Smaller rural counties particularly rely on the Small County Allotment Program to keep all Oregonians connected. We respectfully ask this committee to support a commensurate increase to the Small County Allotment Program in any new transportation package.

Unfortunately, the additional funding in House Bill 2017, at the time was only estimated to cover less than *half* of the projected need to improve and maintain the county road system to a safe and adequate condition.

[[NAME] County has many unmet needs, such as [PROJECT, PROJECT, and PROJECT].

While counties have several local revenue raising options available such as local gas taxes, vehicle registration fees, or service districts, most county tax bases are too small to meet the operational, maintenance, and enhancement needs of our road system. We respectfully ask this committee to expand local options for counties to raise revenue and lift current preemptions.

Counties are thankful for the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the legislature's concerted effort to work with local governments to find collaborative solutions to the state's impending budget deficit. Our partnership with ODOT and the legislature on House Bill 2101 Surface Transportation Block Grant Fund Exchange Program is an efficient model of collaboration that we look forward to continuing.

As work continues to develop the 2025 Transportation Package we ask that you partner with counties, support the largest share of Oregon's public road system, and uphold the 50-30-20 funding formula that unites Oregon's cities, counties, and highways.

For more information on [Name] County's road, bridge, and transportation priorities, please see the attached County Road Priorities brief.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[NAMES]

[SIGNATURES]