



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Transportation

Office of the Director

355 Capitol St NE

Salem, OR 97301

June 16, 2021

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio,

Congratulations on the introduction and Committee approval of HR 3684, the INVEST in America Act. We are thankful for your leadership on this legislation that will help us at the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) work toward our goals of combating climate change, increasing social and racial equity, and better managing Portland area congestion.

We are pleased to see new funding programs in the legislation for electric vehicle charging infrastructure, new funding and programmatic flexibility for investing in resilience, and funding to help reduce carbon emissions. Record investments in transit will undoubtedly help ODOT and transit districts across the state as we work to better connect communities and reduce barriers to opportunity. New passenger rail programs and funding will provide us with more opportunities to invest in our passenger rail infrastructure to improve on time performance and ridership. On the road usage charge, we are glad to see funding grow for state pilots and we would be excited to lend our expertise to the foundation building and eventual implementation of a national pilot program.

At the individual project level, the bridge set aside in the proposed Projects of National and Regional Significance program will present an excellent funding opportunity for our efforts to replace the Interstate Bridge. Similarly, the proposed Reconnecting Neighborhoods program aligns well with our I-5 Rose Quarter Improvements Project.

We appreciate your leadership on this legislation, and we appreciate the hard work and regular communication of your staff throughout the process. We look forward to continuing to work with you toward final passage of this critical infrastructure legislation.

Sincerely,

Kristopher W. Strickler
Director