



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September 2, 2025

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House
Oregon House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on HB 3991 A

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I ran for this job to bring my lived experience into this work. I remember the days when just a \$20 unexpected cost would negatively impact us weeks down the road. I remember the days when the risk of not paying your car registration and getting caught was less significant than the risk of not being able to pay for food.

As I reflected on how we ended the long session and continued that reflection as the days led up to this special session, I was deeply conflicted. I have spoken with so many in my district who have similar stories. While I would much rather be talking about childcare, healthcare, or schools, the truth is that in HD 40, transportation often dominates the conversation. Since we have Highway 99, the south end of Highway 82, part of Highway 224, Highway 213, I-205, and the Abernethy Bridge, transportation safety and affordability are always top concerns, so I listen, listen, and listen.

Overwhelmingly, whether someone was a neighbor, a business owner, a teacher, or an elected official, they are fed up with the increased costs without benefits, poor project management, and lack of oversight and accountability.

A specific story that sticks with me is that of a teacher who was recently laid off, along with almost 20 others, due to budget cuts. She is incredibly nervous about how any increase in daily costs will negatively affect her and her new family. There are many more stories from my constituents who are feeling the same.

We were told the goal of this special session was to keep ODOT's maintenance and operations afloat. Instead, HB 3991 A hands over nearly \$6 billion to solve a \$3.25 billion maintenance gap, and locks in a ten-year plan with no clear explanation for the increase nor ongoing accountability for how that money will be spent.

That gave me pause. A 2023 internal ODOT audit couldn't even account for \$123 million allocated from the last transportation package, and an independent review flagged major

Rep.AnnessaHartman@oregonlegislature.gov – www.oregonlegislature.gov/Hartman

Capitol Address: 900 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301 – Phone: (503) 986-1440



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

problems with project scoping and budgeting. This bill's temporary audit through 2027 is not enough. Oregonians deserve permanent oversight, clear cost controls, and public-facing checkpoints that show projects are staying on track.

Now, I do want to be very clear: there are parts of this bill that I support. As a previous city councilor, the bill maintains the 50-30-20 revenue split between the state, counties, and cities, ensuring local governments get their fair share. After all the work my community and I did, I'm glad to see that tolling is off the table. I am very glad to see we are doing right by the heavy users and creating a more equitable pay structure. But the rest of this package goes too far, without strong enough accountability to the people footing the bill.

If this bill raised only what's needed to keep critical services and operations whole, kept tolling off the table, protected the 50-30-20 split, and tied new spending to strong, ongoing oversight—without overburdening working families, I might have voted for it.

But, on behalf of the constituents of HD 40, I voted no on HB 3991 A yesterday because I believe Oregon families deserve better, and because trust—especially when it comes to their money—has to be earned.

Sincerely,

Representative Annessa Hartman
House District 40 – Gladstone, Oregon City, North Clackamas County