



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

09/02/2025

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

RE: Vote Explanation on HB 3991 A-Engrossed

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

“I came to my first special session with the concerns of our communities in mind. House District 26 depends on major transportation routes like I-5, Highway 99W, and the Tualatin and Boone Bridges, but we lack reliable transit options. That makes transportation one of the biggest daily challenges for residents. Local leaders—from Washington County to Tigard, Sherwood, and Wilsonville—made it clear that funding for roads and transit was a top priority.

At the same time, I also heard from families struggling with rising costs. Federal tariffs and inflation are already driving up prices, and I had serious concerns about adding another tax burden. Legislators changed this bill to address those issues, including removing the ability to raise taxes without legislative approval.

This bill is far from perfect, but it will:

- Keep neighborhood roads safer and in better shape.
- Make sure seniors and people with disabilities can get to medical appointments with reliable transit.
- Keep snowplows on winter roads so emergency responders can reach people in need.
- Modernize how electric vehicles pay for road use.
- Strengthen oversight of ODOT spending.

That last point matters. A 2023 audit showed ODOT couldn’t account for \$123 million from the last transportation package, and an independent review flagged major project planning failures. The bill only requires a temporary audit through 2027—which isn’t enough. Trust has been broken too many times, and I will continue pushing for meaningful, ongoing, and transparent audits so Oregonians can have confidence their money is being used wisely.”

Sincerely,

Representative Sue Rieke Smith HD-26

