

Move Redmond



Board of Directors

March 25, 2025

President

Shannon Mangan
Cascade Bicycle Club

Senate Transportation Committee
Comment Letter Regarding: PSSB 5161

Secretary

Carlos Cruz
Redmond Resident

Dear Senator Liias and Members of the Committee,

Treasurer

Wes Mills
Redmond Employee

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Senate transportation budget. We recognize the challenges of addressing a significant budget shortfall, and appreciate your thoughtful approach to setting our transportation priorities.

Angela Rozymn
Natural & Built Environments

Move Redmond is a Transportation Management Association that represents over 100,000 workers, students and residents of Redmond, Washington. Our mission is to support a transportation system that is effective, reliable, sustainable, and accessible for all. Washington voters share this vision, as was seen in the recent defeat of Initiative 2117, which reaffirmed public support for cleaner, safer, and more equitable transportation options for all, including non-drivers.

Jeff Aumell
Microsoft

Charles Duba
DigiPen

We have serious concerns about elements of the current revenue package. We urge you to consider a mix of other revenue sources, such as increasing Diesel taxes or adopting a gas tax increase similar to the House proposal. Another fiscally responsible option would be to scale back one or more of the highway expansion projects to a reasonable size that fits within the parameters of the state's previously established budget.

Sue Stewart
Redmond Resident

Eugene Vidales
Redmond Resident

Phil Miller
Redmond Resident

We appreciate that the Senate budget maintains crucial funding for programs like Commute Trip Reduction, bicycle and pedestrian safety, Regional Mobility Grants, and invests in the preservation and maintenance of our roads and bridges. However, the perpetual investment of highway expansion keeps us trapped in a cycle of budget overruns. Washington State needs to maintain and take care of the infrastructure we currently have and increase capacity through smarter and more sustainable investments in transit and multimodal infrastructure.

Tax on E-Bikes

We strongly oppose the proposed 10% surcharge on electric bicycles. Next month, the Washington State Department Of Transportation will launch their electric bicycle rebate program, incentivizing Washingtonians, many of whom have been waiting for this rebate program for years, to buy an electric bicycle. A 10% surcharge on these bicycles would negate the benefit of the rebate and make electric bicycles out of reach for more Washingtonians. Furthermore, a surcharge on these bicycles would put many of our local bike shops in jeopardy. These businesses are already operating on razor thin margins and provide a critical service to our transportation network.



An electric bicycle is not so much a “luxury” bicycle, as it is a replacement for a car. At Move Redmond, we completely replaced our company car with an electric cargo bicycle, we named it *Raspberry*. Not only has this shift saved our small non-profit about \$13,000 annually in insurance, parking, maintenance, and fuel costs; it’s served as a powerful outreach tool- allowing us to demonstrate the utility of eBikes.

Our entire team shares this bicycle to transport materials and engage with communities throughout Redmond and East King County. This bicycle is not a luxury, but an incredibly useful tool that has enabled our organization to save money, work sustainably, and inspire others.

Tolls for Transit Agencies

Move Redmond also strongly opposes the Senate’s proposal to toll transit agencies. The increased burden on transit will be felt most by public agencies and people who depend on their services- many of whom already face barriers to mobility. At a time when the Federal government is taking a sharp turn away from funding public transit, Washington must not put undue strain and burden on our transit agencies by additional taxes and bus registration fees.

Voters in the Puget Sound Region have repeatedly shown strong support for frequent and reliable transit service and expansion of transit options. Tolling transit runs directly counter to these values and threatens to undercut the hard-won increases in ridership gained post-pandemic.

As you move forward in this budget process, we ask you to stay grounded in the will of the people and the values that Washington voters have made clear. Mitigating climate change is important to us, transit is important to us, the mobility of all people, especially non-drivers is important to us. We need leadership that will deliver on those values and prioritize the projects, programs and revenue sources that align with those values. Please eliminate the taxes on transit and electric bicycles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelli Refer".

Kelli Refer
Executive Director at Move Redmond