



The Street Trust Support HB 2671: Harmonizing Oregon's Helmet Laws

The Street Trust advocates for healthy and thriving communities where it is safe and easy for people to bike, walk and ride public transit.

The Street Trust offers bike safety education, legal clinics, commute clinics, and other educational opportunities. In these educational settings we emphasize the importance of visibility and the benefits of wearing a helmet, but we oppose making certain lighting and helmets a legal requirement for people over the age of 16 because it discourages using bicycles for transportation and misdirects limited enforcement resources.

The Street Trust welcomes new forms of transportation that increase mobility with a smaller environmental impact than an automobile. Portland's four-month pilot demonstrated people like getting around by e-scooter and e-scooter trips are replacing automobile trips. The response to e-scooters was far greater than we could imagine.

We are excited to share the road with e-scooters and would also like to share the same helmet laws. Modern electric scooters, which are limited to 15 mph, are similar to bicycles and should be subject to the same helmet rules. HB 2671 harmonizes scooter helmet laws with bicycle helmet laws by requiring motor-assisted scooter riders under 16 years old to wear helmets.

Oregonians should not be discouraged from using an alternative form of transportation that is emissions-free, uses space efficiently, and takes cars off the road.

We urge you to support HB 2671.

Sincerely,

Jillian Detweiler
Executive Director