

Committee Members,

Thank you for your time, your consideration and your dedication to service.

I'm writing you today in full support of increasing funding for non-motorized portions of projects that receive the state highway fund. 2020 was a year that changed everything for everyone. But on the streets in Multnomah County and in Portland there was an actor already terrorizing Portlanders in 2019 that is still destroying families and lives daily; traffic violence.

Car crashes are the number 1 cause of injury and death across all age groups, from new born to senior citizens. In the Portsmouth neighborhood just this year Jaccob Riscajche was killed at age 5 in the street because of inadequate infrastructure on newly built roads in New Columbia.

120 Portlanders have lost their lives due to inadequate and unsafe infrastructure since 2019. In 2020, 80 residents of Multnomah County lost their lives on roads. These tolls don't take into account the lost of life quality from crashes that don't end in fatality. A close friend of mine is in a wheelchair still today from a crash in 2013 before which they had a robust and promising career, only to be taken away in a moment.

Further, bike tourism alone adds Billions to the state economy every year and this increase in funding safe infrastructure will only benefit areas of the state that already see the advantages of inviting bike tourism as roads to those areas are re-built.

Safe and devoted separate and equal infrastructure for people has to be the paradigm of planning by the State of Oregon as we step cautiously through the 21st century and HB 395 goes a long way to making and keeping all Oregonians and our visitors safe no matter how we chose or need to get around this beautiful state.

Thank you again for your time, your consideration and your service.

-Paul