

I am emailing you in support of SB395.

I live in East Portland, east of I-205. This bill would allow our residents, who are mostly low income and among the most racially diverse in Portland, better access to a network of sidewalks, crossings, and pedestrian paths/bikeways to meet and enhance the intent of the original Oregon Bike Bill.

Our so-called bikeways and pedestrian trail development processes in East Portland are at a virtual standstill. We had access to limited amounts of dollars under the various alternate transportation packages prior to Covid-19; those are disappearing as agency budgets are retreating to provide "core services to core areas." East Portland is not part of the "core service to core areas. We might as well be in rural central Oregon.

We have limited alternative transportation modes, limited-to-no sidewalks and crossings, and a population that is, for the most part, low-income and frequently not native English speaking. There is an inference from many outside of East Portland that our population cares less about the effects of climate change, or recovery and resiliency from disasters or community public health, both physical and mental. This is not true. What our community does not have are the infrastructure tools needed to support an expanded and interconnected trails/crossings network within the City of Portland connecting to the regional and statewide trails structure outside the city proper. SB 395 will help provide these tools.

Our community, especially the elderly, children and youth and mobility challenged, have been disproportionately affected by the restrictions currently in place and it will take many months, if not years, to return to some semblance of normalcy, both physically and mentally. Everyone is a pedestrian first. Take that first step and pass SB395.

Thank you

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