

Chair Beyer and Chair McClain:

RE: Senate Bill 395

I am opposed to this bill as it's written and would like to suggest that it be amended or tabled for the reasons listed:

1. On your advisory committee, there should be several people in the agriculture and timber industry to include land owners in rural settings in which these future trails would impact.

Anything short on that would be irresponsible as the locals provide tremendous feedback. Honestly, if there's member from an environmental group, Rec/trails council, bike sales/repair shop and a kid under the age of 21, why not someone from the Farm Bureau & Timber council? Not a very good representation to me.

2. There needs to be the utmost respect to current land use zoning laws especially in EFU (exclusive farm use). Environmentalists protect wetlands which are important just as valuable rich soil agricultural ground is important & should have equal protection as well.

3. ODOT/Connect Oregon grant monies should ONLY be given out if a proposed project is properly approved & went through all the necessary steps to include public interaction, notification to affected land owners, no land use appeals pending, etc. basically having transparency and FOLLOWING the LAW as any developer has to.

4. I think an increase from 1 to 5% is too much. We're in the middle of a pandemic. The public isn't able to testify or get questions asked and ZOOM meetings are difficult for many of us to participate in for a number of reasons. Tech ability, if living rural, bad reception. I don't understand the urgency of this bill right now & I think it should be tabled for a later date. Cyclists pay no transportation tax. They are a passionate group & most likely would have no problem with contributing to the development of future trails/bike lines etc. They need to pay into our road/transportation tax if funds are being designated to benefit them. Because that extra 4% takes away from the rest of us.

5. ODOT needs to get a better handle on how to manage all the homeless camps scattered alongside our roadways, highways, bridges and other ODOT domains before they even think about creating more public transportation spaces for trails etc.

Respectively yours,

Celine M. McCarthy  
Retired Owner of Forest Grove Physical Therapy  
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