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March 3, 2021

Joint Committee on Transportation
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Testimony: SB 395

Co-Chairs Senator Beyer and Representative McLain, Co-Vice Chairs Senator Boquist and Representative Noble, and other Members of the Committee,

Central Oregon LandWatch (“LandWatch”) is a conservation organization which for more than 35 years has protected Central Oregon’s beautiful forests and high desert, rivers and springs, fish and wildlife, and our vibrant communities. We work to conserve the region’s ecosystems, wildlife habitat, and working rural lands balanced with a responsible, sustainable approach to planning and fostering thriving communities.

LandWatch supports SB 395. Bill proposes to increase expenditure on footpaths and bicycle trails.

SB 395 would increase the minimum amount of State Highway Fund dollars spent by cities and counties on bicycle and pedestrian transportation projects from 1 percent to 5 percent. This increase in funding for active transportation would provide much-needed public health, safety, environmental, and economic benefits to communities across the state.

Too many Oregon communities continue to be reliant on expensive and dangerous transportation infrastructure that primarily serves cars, leaving people little choice but to own and travel by car. Safe and convenient pedestrian and bicycle facilities have not been a funding priority. We need to invest in active transportation infrastructure to make up this deficit.

The City of Bend’s recently adopted Transportation System Plan sets targets to double the percentage of trips made by walking, biking, and transit, to have no increase in vehicle miles traveled per capita, and to reduce transportation greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2040. We need resources to make these targets a reality, and SB 395’s will aid in that pursuit.

Funding for active transportation is a critical component in creating vibrant, mixed-use neighborhoods that prioritize people over cars. LandWatch supports SB 395.



Respectfully submitted,

Rory Isbell
Staff Attorney
Central Oregon LandWatch

