



Joint Committee on Transportation
Testimony in Support of SB 395
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AARP is pleased to testify in support of SB 395, Safe Routes for All bill.

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan social change organization with a nationwide membership of nearly 38 million and 503,000 in Oregon. We work to improve quality of life for all as we age, strengthen our communities, and fight for the issues that matter to Oregon families. An important aspect of our work in Oregon is advocating for livable and age-friendly communities, including expanding transportation and mobility options that include walking and biking for Oregonians of all ages and abilities.

Oregon is recognized leader nationally for creating livable communities and it was, in part, the “Bike Bill” that put us on map fifty years ago. But after five decades, is it time to do more to achieve our shared vision of safe routes for all.

We are pleased that SB 395 would:

- Increase the share of state highway funds invested in walking and biking from 1% to 5%.
- Expand the requirement for investments in walking and biking to include road-resurfacing projects.
- Exempt small projects where the cost of walking and biking improvements would exceed 20% of the total project.
- Ensure transparency through an annual report on the use of these funds.

Older Oregonians overwhelmingly want to live in their own homes as they age. Unfortunately, more than 50% of non-drivers age 65 and older stay home on any given day partially because they lack transportation options. Getting around by walking, rolling or biking can be a lifeline for older adults in remaining independent, healthy, and meeting everyday transportation needs.

However, according to the Dangerous by Design report¹, traffic deaths for people walking, biking, and rolling continue to rise. Older adults, people of color and children are disproportionately impacted, with older adults being four times more likely to be killed while walking than any other group. We need to do more to improve pedestrian safety, walkability and bikability in our communities.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to make our state an age-friendly and livable place for people of all ages, abilities, races and incomes. We urge you to pass SB 395.

¹ <https://smartgrowthamerica.org/dangerous-by-design/>