

To Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation:

I'm writing in support of Senate Bill 395, which would help make Oregon's roads safer and more accessible for everyone.

It's been a tough past year, and despite the fact that the pandemic has temporarily reduced the amount of driving on our roads, deaths haven't gone down. If anything the past year has taught us, it's that we're not going to meet the state's biggest challenges around safety, climate change, and equity if we don't tackle those challenges in every policy area. Transportation is a key area where this can happen — and the time for action is now.

As we reemerge from the pandemic, we need to be thinking strategically around how to support all Oregon communities. I was born and raised in Oregon, but I never visited the Wallowas or the Painted Hills before last year. Oregon's treasures should be enjoyed by all safely, and being able to bike more safely would be a boon for tourism in our rural communities.

Fifty years ago, Oregon was a national leader in supporting safe access to roads for biking and walking through the "Bike Bill." Despite the progress that we've made so far, the Oregon Department of Transportation estimates that it's going to take 150 years at current funding levels to achieve the vision of safe and equitable access. SB 395 will help us get there within my lifetime.

My hope is that SB 395 will be one of the landmark pieces of transportation legislation that will improve safety, protect our natural wonders from climate change, and equitably improve prosperity for all of Oregon.

I urge you to support SB 395.

Thank you,
Thomas L. Ngo
Board Member, The Street Trust and The Street Trust Action Fund