

Submitter: Linda Watkins
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB3113

Senator Gorsek, Co-Chair
Representative McLain, Co-Chair
Senator Boquist, Co-Vice Chair
Representative Boshart Davis, Co-Vice Chair
Joint Transportation Committee
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support of House Bill (HB) 3113

Please accept my following comments as testimony supporting HB 3113 on behalf of the City of Carlton.

As proposed, HB 3113 provides the critical investment opportunities Carlton and other cities need to create safe, healthy, vibrant communities now and for future generations.

Located in the Willamette Valley, our small city, founded as a logging and farming community now also finds itself considered the epicenter of the valley's wine industry. We play host to thousands of out of state and local visitors every year. With this increased visibility has come a population increase, especially attractive as we're less than 40 minutes from centers where they can still easily commute to work. Carlton also is part of the critical north-south commercial transportation route with State Highway OR47 bisecting our community.

At the time OR47 was designated, the existing OR47 route made sense. Today, traffic, especially on Main Street where visitors wander, searching out tasting rooms, restaurants and shopping opportunities, is dominated by heavy freight trucks. This area also contains a popular city park featuring playgrounds, picnic facilities and a swimming pool where locals and visitors, including many of our children, gather to visit and enjoy special events. The combination of heavy vehicle and heavy pedestrian traffic on an old, narrow, twisting highway is a serious safety issue and discourages alternative forms of transportation, whether pedestrian, bicycle, or motor vehicle.

The Oregon Department of Transportation recognizes these issues and is working with the City, through the STIP program, to realign OR 47 one block north, removing the bulk of traffic from Main Street. Carlton is working hard with ODOT to ensure a safe pedestrian and bicycle accessible downtown. The Great Streets program offers

features we want to encourage in our city: traffic calming, street-crossing improvements, bike lanes, street trees, and pavement and stormwater improvements.

On behalf of the City of Carlton I urge the Committee's support of HB 3113.

Thank you,

Linda Watkins, Mayor
City of Carlton, OR