

Submitter: Marina Hajek

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure: HB3113

Respected members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,
I am writing to ask you PLEASE support the HB3113 Great Streets Additional Funding. It is in so much need.

My name is Marina Hajek, I lost my son Vaclav Hajek of 10 years of age, on August 27 of 2007 when walking his bicycle across Bailey Hill Road in Eugene. He was killed by a speeding 16 year old driver on a 300 meters of 4 lane section of this road, didn't make sense at that time to have left 4 lanes on just 300 meters of the road when the rest was 2 lanes, and no safe crosswalk to the park and schools.

His death was the driving force to get organized and asked to the city representatives to improve the safety on the streets. Nowadays Bailey Hill Road is a completely different road, with of course a safe crossing for children so they can access the park and schools in a safely manner.

The death of a child should not be the driving force for change. We as society need to move forward, we need to educate our children to enjoy the walking and bicycling anywhere. But for that we also need a safe infrastructure. If the child learns from early age the joy of doing so, they will also become a conscious driver when sharing the roads, and also an adult that realized the benefits in doing so, something they can pass on to their children.

Today's infrastructure needs to be inviting and feel safe. We need to move forward and not backwards.

In this time is also so imperative to create infrastructure that says Walk and Bike to where you need to go, use alternative ways of transportation, that says that we care about your safety and the environment.

I wish I was in person to testified, but my work wouldn't allow me. The loss of a child will affect you your whole life, and it wont affect just one person but many. Years after dedicating time to activism tours the safety and proper infrastructure, I had to take a brake to care about my daughter's wellbeing and my self.

One doesn't realized what you may be preventing in the future with your today's smart decisions.

Thank you,
Marina Hajek