

Date: April 6 2023

To: Co-Chair Rep. Susan McLain
Co-Chair Sen. Chris Gorsek
Interim Co-Chair Sen. Lew Frederick
Vice Chair Sen. Brian Boquist
Vice Chair Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis

Re: Support HB 3113, \$100M funding to repair & reshape Oregon's "Orphan Highways"

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

I am writing to you today to urge your support for HB 3113, the Great Streets Bill.

Oregon faces a dire epidemic of traffic violence. According to the Oregon Department of Transportation, we lost the lives of 507 Oregonians in 2020 due to traffic violence¹. Of those, 78 were people walking, and 14 were riding a bicycle. This represents an increasing trend of increased deaths on our roadways. Last year, Portland alone had more deaths on our roads in more than 50 years. Most of those deadly crashes occur on a small number of roads, which we call our "High Crash Corridors." These corridors include "orphan highways" that Oregon DOT has neglected for decades, including SE Powell (HWY 26), NE Lombard (HWY 30), and 82nd Ave (HWY 217). Our orphan highways run through communities which include our most vulnerable low-income and BIPOC Oregonians.

The funding that the Oregon Legislature gave to allow 82nd Avenue to be jurisdictionally transferred to the Portland Bureau of Transportation was the right move. The changes that this funding will introduce will make it safer to bike, walk, and take transit around this corridor for an incredibly diverse community.

I am asking you today to continue this effort by investing an additional \$100M in the Great Streets package. We must address these orphan highways across the state, which have seen increased development and population growth around them. We must reshape these highways to serve the community, rather than preserving a deadly barrier to reach family, friends, and opportunities for education or building a career.

With an additional \$100M in funding for Great Streets, we can reduce the number of serious injuries and deaths on our roads while strategically investing in vibrant, safe, and sustainable communities across Oregon.

Thank you for your support for HB 3113.

Sincerely,
Richard Sheperd
North Portland Resident

¹ Oregon DOT, 2020 Oregon Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes Quick Facts.
https://www.oregon.gov/odot/Data/Documents/QuickFacts_2020.pdf