

Submitter: Shirley Ward Mullen
On Behalf Of: City of Carlton
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB3113

April 6, 2023

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 the Great Streets Program, HB 3113 provides a program with the essential and critical investment opportunities Carlton and other cities need to create safe, healthy, prosperous and vibrant communities now and for future generations.

Located in the North Willamette Valley, our small city, founded as a logging and farming community has built a reputation as growers and producers of Oregon's most sought-after Pinot Noir, renowned throughout the world. We host thousands of local, out of state and worldwide visitors every year who come to experience our wines and enjoy the beautiful bucolic setting of our "Great Little Town". With this increased visibility has come a population increase. Carlton was projected to have a population of 2,801 by the year 2033; however, with continuous large and small developments over the last 8 years to support the families attracted to our vibrant community, Carlton's growth rate will surpass the 2033 projections by 2025. Carlton also is part of the critical north-south commercial transportation route with State Highway OR47 bisecting our community.

At the time the OR47 route was designated it made sense through a quieter, more sparsely populated community. Today, traffic, especially on Main Street where locals and tourists visit its tasting rooms, restaurants and shops, is dominated by heavy freight trucks. The number of trucks has grown as fast, or faster, than our population over the past 10 years. 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 significant safety issue and discourages alternative forms of transportation, whether pedestrian, bicycle, or motor vehicle.

The City has explored the Great Streets Program and believes this is a vital tool for Carlton and other communities that have state highways running through them. 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 that will support our growing community and our businesses. 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.

Sincerely,

Shirley Ward-Mullen
Council President