

Submitter: Derek Bradley
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB3113

Thank you cochair McLain, co vicechairs Boquist and Boshart Davis, and members of the committee. I'm Derek Bradley, representing the City of Portland. I appreciate the opportunity to speak in support of HB 3113.

The City of Portland, like jurisdictions all over the state, is facing budget challenges that threaten the future of our local transportation systems. We can no longer afford to maintain our existing assets, let alone make the investments necessary to make them safer, more convenient, more equitable, and more efficient. At the same time, traffic deaths, especially for people walking, are increasing across the country and Oregon is no exception.

Urban arterials in our system – owned by Portland or by ODOT – are the places where both these crises hit the hardest. These are the streets where all travelers are at the greatest risk of injury or death, where businesses need easy access for customers, and where through-travelers and local trips intersect. These streets are critically important for thriving communities in Portland and everywhere else in Oregon. However, we don't have the money necessary to transform them into safe streets for people, not speedways for through trips.

HB 3113 would direct desperately-needed investment toward these main streets. However, we will note that this will be a drop in a bucket compared to the hundreds of millions in safety investments needed across the state. For perspective, PBOT was recently granted federal funding for a \$25 million safety-focused project on 122nd Avenue. This investment will achieve some critical safety fixes on this street, but is still only about a quarter of the amount the City will need to get to more of a "great street" standard.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today about the importance of funding safe, efficient, effective local transportation systems. We look forward to continuing the conversation.