



May 18, 2023

To: Joint Committee on Transportation, Hon. Co-Chairs McLain and Frederick, Co Vice-Chairs Boquist and Boshart Davis and members of the committee

Re: Strongly Support HB 2951 - Funding for Spanish Language Driver Education

Dear Co-Chairs and Committee:

Unfortunately, Oregonians are paying with their lives for our failure to ensure safe streets for all users. We have reported to you time and again that according to NHTSA data, Oregon had the [10th highest traffic fatality rate in the U.S.](#) in the second half of 2022. [Pedestrian fatalities in Oregon were up 61 percent](#) over the previous year in that same period and these abysmal conditions [disproportionately affect BIPOC and low-income Oregonians.](#)

Driver education is a key part of addressing this epidemic when administered effectively. The Street Trust administers the [Oregon Friendly Driver](#) education program for the Greater Portland Metro region and beyond. Our OFD program assistant speaks Spanish and has been able to reach a wider audience because of it. We support increased funding for Spanish language driver education in Oregon.

Thank you,

Sarah Iannarone
Executive Director, The Street Trust