



Board of Directors

February 16, 2024

Alfredo Moreno
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Barbie Minor
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Tya Ping
Secretary Pro-Tem

Felicita Monteblanco
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Miles Palacios
Director

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Doug Menke

Senator Chris Gorsek, Co-Chair
Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Transportation
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 4067 and the -8 Amendments

Dear Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Vice Co-Chairs Boquist and Boshart Davis,

Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District (THPRD) is the largest special park district in Oregon, spanning 50 square miles and serving about 270,000 people in and around Beaverton, Oregon. Established over 65 years ago, THPRD's mission is to provide high-quality park and recreational facilities, programs, services, and natural areas that meet the needs of the diverse communities it serves. We invite people to gather, play, and explore the more than 117 park sites and 70+ miles of hard- and soft-paved trails on the over 3,600 acres of THPRD properties.

The THPRD board of directors appreciates the opportunity to express the district's support for Senate Bill 4067 with the -8 amendments, which will create the Task Force on Electric Micromobility and include a local parks and recreation representative on that task force.

Recent advancements in transportation and recreation have introduced e-bikes to our trail systems. THPRD welcomed nearly 400,000 users to its three regional trails last year, and an increasing percentage of these visitors are e-bike users. The speed of e-bikes impacts the overall use and general trail courtesy. Based upon findings of a THPRD advisory committee on the use of e-bikes on our trails, and guidance from the National Park Service (NPS) on their e-bike policy, THPRD has elected to govern e-bikes as it would any other bike for the time being.

While these electrically assisted bicycles offer an alternative mode of transportation that can enhance accessibility, promote physical activity, and reduce environmental impact, their use and regulation on existing trail networks requires careful consideration and we appreciate that this issue is being looked at by a comprehensive group of stakeholders.

THPRD's urban trail system supports our community members in enjoying natural spaces as well as traveling to and from work and play. We look forward to this unique perspective being part of task force focused on this fairly new and growing presence on our trails.

Please contact Aisha Panas, Deputy General Manager, at a.panas@thprd.org or by phone at 503-816-5804, if you have any questions. We appreciate your consideration of our testimony.


Sincerely,



Alfredo Moreno
THRPD Board President



Barbie Minor
THRPD Board Secretary



Tya Ping
THRPD Board Secretary Pro-Tem



Felicit Monteblanco
THRPD Board Member



Miles Palacios
THRPD Board Member