

Submitter: Cooper Kingsbury

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce  
Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3109

I partook in the SCYP program last spring, as my class worked with the city of Salem. For me personally, it was a very valuable experience, I was able to study a real world environment and draw up design recommendations as if I was a planner. I did not partake in the final report composition however my work was apart and submitted for use to the city. My course was bicycle transportation, where teams were given projects regarding improving the safety and efficiency bikes. My team worked on Commercial Street SE, which is a main street in Salem, stretching from downtown south until the one-way ends about 1.5mi down. Our scope was to create a design recommendation for corridor that works in harmony with the city's vision zero goals and comprehensive plan. The program helped me practice and apply what I study and am passionate about.

What tied the whole experience together was the final presentation with the community members. Many came up when they saw the banner reading "Commercial St." as it is a critical north-south link, but known as a corridor that is unfriendly to bikes. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive from biking advocates and those who use the corridor. The pushback received were from individuals who were wondering how this would work for cars flow and traffic, leading to us having to back up our designs with traffic data to justify why and where the changes were made. It was very helpful to practice communication of why projects are designed in a manner, a skill that I will most certainly need in life. So in all, I found the SCYP program very helpful for my personal academic journey and anecdotally, it seems the community of Salem did too.