

Submitter: James Cavin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3626

I would like to express my support for Oregon House Bill 3626, a piece of legislation that addresses a key issue facing our streets today: the safety of micromobility devices like e-bikes and electric scooters.

Our streets have become a battleground for various forms of transportation—cars, bicycles, pedestrians, and now the growing presence of electric scooters and e-bikes. As we see the rapid rise of these new technologies, we face an urgent need for clear, consistent rules that can guarantee the safety of every individual who shares the road.

The absence of standardized regulations has been a major source of confusion and danger. Riders, pedestrians, and motorists alike are often left uncertain about what is and isn't acceptable. This bill eliminates that uncertainty by setting enforceable rules that everyone can understand and follow.

But safety isn't just about rules. It's about awareness. As much as we need laws, we also need public education. That's where the Oregon Department of Transportation's role in HB 3626 becomes crucial. Public awareness campaigns have proven to be effective in reducing accidents and fostering a culture of responsible behavior.

Far too many conflicts occur because drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians are unaware of each other's needs and responsibilities. When people are more educated about how to share the road safely, they act with greater consideration and respect. This bill addresses that directly, making it clear that public safety is not merely a matter of law enforcement, but of broad cultural change.

Finally, HB 3626 takes a critical step in refocusing our enforcement efforts. Rather than directing police and transportation authorities to penalize responsible e-bike riders, this bill prioritizes addressing the real safety threats: motorcycles, mopeds, and illegally modified high-speed vehicles that dangerously occupy bike lanes and shared pathways.

This is not just a matter of fair treatment—it's a matter of ensuring that our laws are being applied to where they're most needed. E-bike riders aren't the problem. The real threats to safety come from those abusing our roads, those who recklessly push the boundaries of what is legally and safely acceptable. HB 3626 redirects the focus of law enforcement to where it belongs: on the dangerous outliers, not the responsible users of micromobility devices.

HB 3626 is a common sense bill that acknowledges the realities of modern transportation while addressing the challenges they present. It is a bill that will protect Oregonians—both those using micromobility devices and those who share the road with them. Our streets are evolving, and our laws must evolve with them.

I urge this committee to advance HB 3626 without hesitation.