

Submitter: Tanja Olson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Dear Esteemed Members of the Committee,

Oregon's transportation package is an opportunity to invest in what matters most to our communities: safe streets, clean air, and reliable transit. To truly deliver for all Oregonians, including the 30% who don't or can't drive, we need a package that prioritizes access, equity, and sustainability.

I travel mostly by bike, on foot, and by transit. My family owns a hybrid car and an electric car, but I don't use a car regularly. I think we must continue to build a larger and safer bike network that is comfortable for ages 12-90. Currently some of the newest infrastructure is not enough to keep cyclists safe. I was riding on the new Division bike lane between I-205 and 82nd Ave. I encountered two different cars parked in the bike lane, loading and unloading right next to a parking lot, and a car turned right in front of me and cut me off at 82nd Ave. Education needs to be included.

We need a cultural shift to create space that is comfortable for all ages, all abilities, all forms of mobility. Transit must be reliable and frequent to be effective. The walking network must be safe, comfortable, and fun. This includes shade trees and commercial destinations within walking distance.

I am excited to see the progress made in the transportation package. It is a testament to the efforts of so many community members who came together to ensure we have a safe, clean, affordable transportation package. But our work isn't done. We need to make sure electrification and off-street paths aren't left behind. We need to expand transportation choices while keeping costs down for working families and people with low and fixed incomes.

The bill includes significant funding for popular street safety programs that Oregonians have demanded. However, funding for off-street networks and trails, which connect Oregonians to schools, work, and transit, are currently missing. This investment is critical for safety, access, and rural mobility. I would love to see more transportation options for traveling between cities in Oregon. I would love to explore the whole state without getting in a car. A network of fixed route micro-buses that carried bikes would make many more places accessible to more people.

By prioritizing safety-focused public transit, sidewalks, bike lanes, trails, and crosswalks, we create vibrant, resilient neighborhoods where people can live, work,

and play without fear. Currently, the package lacks clear investments that address climate change and air pollution. Without clear investments, the package likely makes the climate crisis worse.

Thank you for your time,

Tanja Olson
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