



June 10, 2025

Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Re: Oregon Community Paths Funding in HB 2025

Cc: Celeste Bodner, Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District Vice-Chair

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is Skyler Archibald, and I live and work in Seaside, Oregon. I'm testifying today to urge you to amend HB 2025 to increase investment in Oregon Community Paths via the Multimodal Active Transportation Fund.

On the North Oregon Coast, our communities are connected by an important but dangerous highway system, making trails and off-highway transportation incredibly vital for pedestrians and riders. Investments in safe community paths are invaluable for improving access to spaces like parks, schools, community centers, and transit hubs. Currently there are limited safe paths to encourage movement throughout our community away from the highway.

Off-street paths provide the safest alternative to walking or riding along highways, and they clearly and demonstrably promote economic impact and community health. This is particularly evident in Clatsop County, where residents of Astoria, Warrenton, Gearhart, Seaside and Cannon Beach often work in other areas and many rely on our existing, yet insufficient, infrastructure of quasi bike lanes and paths.

As a recreation professional, it is my perspective that Oregonians should continue our longstanding tradition of providing safe access and opportunities to experience all our great state has to offer. Access to trails, especially in our rural communities, enhances opportunities for health and transportation to converge, positively impacting Clatsop County residents. On a personal note, as a cyclist and runner, using the highway system is dangerous and should be avoided. I've unfortunately been the victim of an accident with a vehicle while cycling and have also had countless objects (and insults) thrown at me while on busy highways.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "S. Archibald", written in a cursive style.

Skyler Archibald | Executive Director | Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District

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