

Submitter: Brian Wilkinson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek, and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment,

I am writing today to express my strong support for House Bill 2025, which includes funding that would support crucial transportation infrastructure in Southeast Bend. These transportation improvements would serve the dual benefit of supporting Governor Kotek's housing production goals, and increase traffic safety and transportation mobility.

There are 7,500 homes in the approval process in this area, of which over 1,000 are deed-restricted affordable. These projects cannot be developed efficiently, however, due to extensive transportation safety improvements that are necessary to bring the current county roads to city standards, and improve intersection safety. The funding associated with HB 2025 would allow these improvements to be made efficiently, and would expedite the construction of thousands of units of needed housing.

The transportation safety improvements necessary in this area are all excellent candidates for the Great Streets Fund created by HB 2025. Bringing county roads to city street standards would improve safety, access, and mobility for all users; include the construction of sidewalks, curb ramps, crosswalks, lighting, and bike lanes that would promote complete roadways and reduce both vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions. In their entirety, these transportation safety improvements would support multimodal connectivity, and relieve current traffic from South Highway 97 by creating right-sized roadways that can safely accommodate the traffic volume.

Developers are committed to working with the City of Bend to use state funding to increase traffic safety and increase housing production. Thank you for your leadership on this issue.