

Submitter: Nic Westendorf

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek and Members of the Committee,

I'm here to testifying in support of House Bill 2025, particularly the investments in Safe Routes to School and the Great Streets programs. Building a safer transportation system is key to building more livable communities. I am in full support of funding programs like funding safe crossings, sidewalks, lighting, and bikeways that connect people to schools, jobs, transit, and community. Without this funding we are forced to travel dangerous roads every day. I fully support the \$50 million for Safe Routes and \$250 million for Great Streets.

Finally, I want to highlight the importance of increased transit funding and the STIF program in HB 2025. The increased funding for the STIF program in this package will help prevent significant cuts to public transit service across Oregon. I encourage you to include an increased amount in the payroll tax escalation, ensuring service expansion. Transit service needs support now more than ever. Ensuring those of us who need transit can rely on it support all of us to get where we need to go. This benefits car folks like myself as well as road users who benefit from me not adding to traffic.

Please pass HB 2025 and ensure transit services are fully funded, ensuring transit expansion in the near term.