

Submitter: Stephanie Byrd

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

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

My name is Stephanie Byrd, and I live in Portland. I'm asking you to support House Bill 2025 because I want safer streets for my family and my community, and I want our state to make wise and responsible investments of taxpayer money.

I intentionally live within walking distance of my kids' schools and most services and daily activities. However, there are multiple intersections my elementary schooler and middle schooler have to cross where I have personally witnessed car crashes, and we have to be hypervigilant for distracted motorists. There is not even a question of my kids riding bikes on the windy, shoulderless streets that connect us to their schools. On foot we are able to hike through wooded areas and across ditches to stay out of traffic, but it's not ideal.

The Safe Routes to School and Great Streets programs will make our streets safer for everyone, especially kids, elders, and people who can't afford to drive. This will also keep people who don't want to or don't have to drive off the streets, improving traffic and the general health of everyone else.

Every investment in non-car transportation networks is pennies on the dollar compared to our roadways, which are the most inefficient and expensive way to move people. Every investment in active modes of transportation builds on others, reducing wear and tear on roadways and reducing demand for more of them. That's money and time saved for everyone. I urge you to include funding for the Oregon Community Paths program to create a complete and connected network.

I urge you to support HB 2025 and fully fund these life-saving, budget-friendly programs.