

Submitter: Jacob Sepulveda

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

My name is Jacob Sepulveda, and I live in the Montavilla neighborhood. I'm writing today in strong support of House Bill 2025 because I want and need safer streets for my family, my neighbors, and everyone in our community. No matter how they get around.

Every day, my child and I walk and bike along roads that are unsafe. We've had too many close calls, and I've spoken with other parents and guardians in our community that feel the same fear. In many parts of Oregon, the most basic of trips - to school, work, the park, going for groceries - requires navigating unnecessarily dangerous streets and "crossings".

Programs like Safe Routes to School and Great Streets are essential for communities everywhere. They not only help protect children and elders, they also give families the freedom to move safely and independently in and around their neighborhoods. These programs are smart, cost-effective, and they save real lives. But safety doesn't stop at the edge of the road.

I urge you to include robust funding for the Oregon Community Paths program, which builds the off-street trails and pathways that help complete networks and connected people to the places they need to go. Without these investments, on-street safety improvements can leave people stranded.

Please, support HB 2025 and fully fund these life-saving programs, for our kids, for climate resilience, for transportation equity, and for the kind of Oregon we all want to live in.

Thank you for your time and service to our communities.