



40-Mile Loop Land Trust
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June 11, 2025

To: Co-Chairs and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation
From: Lou Reynoldson, President of the 40 Mile Loop Land Trust
Re: HB 2025 Transportation Bill

The 40 Mile Loop is a non-profit trail advocacy organization serving the Portland Metro Area, advocating for a 150-mile-long trail system that connects all major cities in Multnomah County. After over 45 years of continuous effort, the 40 Mile Loop is approaching 70% completion. The 40 Mile Loop is a significant component of the much larger, 700-mile-long Regional Trail System, which will connect every city in the Portland Metro Area.

The system that we are developing will provide safe, off-street facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other active transportation users. The time has come to increase the pace of completion of the off-street active transportation system. This is a legitimate and critical part of what a comprehensive transportation agency needs to do to fulfill its mission.

Missing thus far in the transportation legislation is funding for Oregon Community Paths. Oregon Community Paths has been a good program. But it can be and needs to be a **great** program, one that provides meaningful grant funding to help complete off-street pathway systems every year, and everywhere in the State of Oregon.

We've waited a long time for the Oregon Department of Transportation to step up. Do it for public safety, do it for public health, do it to avoid conflicts with the freight industry, do it to fight climate change. But do it now. Fund Oregon Community Paths at the most robust level that we can afford.

Sincerely,

Laura "Lou" Reynoldson
40 Mile Loop Land Trust
President