

Submitter: John Carr

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Co-chairs Gorsek and McLain, members of the committee:

I urge you to support House Bill 2025, particularly the investments in the Safe Routes to School and Great Streets programs. When I think of the most pressing investments for my family and neighbors, it's not a faster trip to Vancouver or extra lanes on the highway. It's safety on the streets and corridors we navigate most.

The Safe Routes to School and Great Streets programs invest in exactly these kinds of projects. Case in point would be the jurisdictional transfer of Oregon's most deadly orphan highways like 82nd Ave and (hopefully soon) Powell Blvd in Southeast Portland.

In my neighborhood alone, hundreds of kids cross these streets daily to get to and from school. Many are driven across by their parents because crossing on foot is too unsafe. The two most recent traffic deaths on Powell underscore this reality. But we can't change the conditions without this critical funding.

The \$50 million for Safe Routes will save lives. The \$250 million for Great Streets will save lives. And they'll reduce the stress and fear that comes with moving about our cities.

Investments in off-street routes is an important piece of this too. Please also include support for the Oregon Community Paths program.

Please pass HB 2025 and fully fund these safety programs.