

Submitter: Emilie McCormick

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek, Vice Chairs Boshart-Davis and Starr, and members of the committee:

My name is Emilie McCormick, and I live in NE Portland. I'm testifying today because I support a 2025 transportation package that works for ALL Oregonians and reflects our shared values of safety, affordability, equity, and climate resilience. In particular, I urge you to fully fund road and sidewalk repair for safety and accessibility.

Oregon's communities need a better transportation system that is healthy, affordable, and safe. Imagine an Oregon where we all safely use the sidewalks, mobility aid or not. Where cyclists and vehicles can take roads confident they aren't going to sustain injury or cause car damage from large and numerous potholes.

Relatively small investments now can have huge payouts in getting all Oregonians where they need to go while improving our economy, environment, and public health.

It's essential to pass a transportation package that funds safety first. For work at a coffee shop, I had to ride my bike in the dark save for some streetlights and my front light at 5am through NE Portland. I had the light angled down in front of me so I could see the potholes to avoid them. These rides were uncomfortable and dangerous. I've also held off on starting an outdoor activity, rollerblading, because my neighborhood sidewalks are so broken I don't feel it's safe. For the same reason, I also don't go on night walks. There's not enough lighting and I've tripped on enough roots breaking through the cement. If the sidewalks and potholes in the road were fixed I could expand my ways of exercising, spend more time in my neighborhood and connect with my community, and feel confident on the road whether it's in a car or on a bike.

New dollars must be prioritized to meet our safety, climate, and mobility needs. If we're going to ask Oregonians to pay more, we have an obligation to put their dollars to work for the future.

That means improving health and safety by funding popular but underfunded programs like Safe Routes to School, Great Streets, and Oregon Community Paths.

We can't afford to wait. Let's build a future where every Oregonian has access to safe, reliable, and sustainable transportation options. I urge you to pass a transportation package this session that moves Oregon forward.

Sincerely,
Emilie McCormick
Portland, Oregon