

Submitter: Bill Berry

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Co-Chairs McLane and Gorsek, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Bill Berry, and I live in Portland, Oregon. I'm writing to show support for House Bill 2025 because I value the lives of children in my neighborhood, and those of Oregonians across all 36 counties in Oregon. I've been a lifelong cyclist, and at age 65, I'm no longer protected by the illusion of immortality. When I moved to Portland twenty years ago, the reputation of Oregon was as a place that put quality of life first. I felt safe as a cyclist when I first moved here. Now, each time I mount my bike I wonder if it will be my last ride.

My neighbors across the street are sending their 5 year old twins to the local elementary school this fall. I want them to feel safe joining other neighbors walking and cycling to school. There is much to gain by investing in Safe Streets. Neighbors will get to know neighbors. Children can choose healthy ways to develop independence by walking and cycling. Families can gather safely without always using a car. Businesses thrive in cities where safety comes first. Seniors like myself can walk or ride to the grocery store without fearing for the next close call. And finally, those who choose to drive can be confident that investments made in safe streets means less traffic and greater ease of parking.

I urge you to support House Bill 2025, to insure a safer future for all Oregonians.