

Submitter: Ruth Campbell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek, and members of the committee:

My name is Ruth Campbell, and I live in Southeast Portland. I'm writing to you today to support House Bill 2025 because we need safer streets with accessible and reliable transportation options for all Oregonians.

As you vote on this transportation package, I want you to keep in mind Oregonians and Portlanders like me. I grew up in Portland's inner east side, where I learned to use our bike lanes, take TriMet, and walk on our connected sidewalk grid to get around. Today, these same skills -- and the funding and infrastructure that supports them -- allow my partner and I to remain in our community because living without a car means we can afford to stay in the inner city near family, friends, jobs and schools.

But in far too much of our city and our state, getting around outside of a car is dangerous and scary, forcing people like me to prioritize car ownership over dreams like owning a home, living near loved ones, or starting a family. Others, particularly the elderly, young, and disabled, have no choice but to brave dangerous roads.

The Safe Routes to School and Great Streets programs will make our streets safer for everyone (drivers included!), provide safe options to Oregonians struggling to build a life in our beautiful state, and protect all of us who don't drive.

Further, while I fully support on-street safety investments, they often lead nowhere if we don't also fund off-street connections. That is why I urge you to include funding for the Oregon Community Paths program to create a complete and connected network.

I urge you to support HB 2025 and fully fund these programs.

Ruth Campbell
Portland, OR