

Submitter: NATALIE SEALS

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek and Members of the Committee,

My name is Natalie Seals, and I live in Downtown Portland. I'm writing in support of House Bill 2025 because I want safer streets for me and my community.

Every day I have to walk or bike along unsafe roads to get to school, work, or the store. I've had some close calls. I have started biking more places and whenever I mention this to an experienced bicyclist, they always tell me "It's not if you get hit, it's when you get hit, be prepared." How do I prepare to be hit by a moving death machine speeding through unsafe streets?

One particular crosswalk, that is marked but does not have a light, that I use to get to work is right next to an urban Day Care center. Cars regularly speed through this crosswalk without checking for full adult humans, much less very small ones that also cross there.

The Safe Routes to School and Great Streets programs will make our streets safer for everyone, including for me when I *do* drive instead of taking transit, walking, or biking. Slower, safer roads benefit everyone.

Finally, 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 have personally felt the lack of connections when trying to take advantage of Portland's bike infrastructure.

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

Thank you,
Natalie Seals