

Submitter: Eric Cullander

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Dear Legislators,

I know how busy you are in your effort to craft and pass bills that benefit Oregonians and yet stay within our financial boundaries. Thank you for your long hours and efforts.

I rarely write letters to legislators but I'm moved to do so at this time.

I am a bike rider in rural Oregon outside of Creswell. I occasionally bike into town to conduct business, including volunteering at our local elementary school. I know I take measurable risks doing this for while on my route (primarily Cloverdale Road) there are several places where either driver visibility is impeded, the road narrows to the point that bicyclist are in the path of overtaking vehicles, there are wide, busy intersections where traffic is moving rapidly or all of the above.

I'm an adult and am willing to take these risks although I hope that eventually either wider bike lanes or even better, multi-use paths are constructed. What really worries me the most however, is when I see children riding on these busy streets. Children and busy roads are NOT a good mix.

Oregon Community Paths funds grants for project development, construction, reconstruction, major resurfacing or other improvements of multi-use paths that improve access and safety for people walking and bicycling. This program is used to fund the off-street portions of Safe Routes to School projects as well as access to parks, transit centers, and alternatives to high-speed roadways. It is especially critical in rural communities, where off-street paths are frequently the only alternative to walking, running, or biking on the state highway system.

The program was oversubscribed by more than 4:1 in its first two funding cycles.) We are asking that a very small portion of the new funding identified in the transportation package be allocated to this program through the Multimodal Active Transportation Fund which exclusively funds the Oregon Community Paths program.

We celebrate the proposed investments already identified in the package for on-street safety through Safe Routes to School and Great Streets.

Please act now to include funding for Oregon Community Paths in SB 2025 Transportation Package! The upfront costs will be greatly outweighed by the improvement in safety in our communities.

Sincerely,  
Eric Cullander  
Creswell, OR 97426