

Submitter: Camilla Dartnell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

My name is Camilla Dartnell, and I live in Portland. I chose to move to Oregon 9 years ago because of the ability to safely walk and bike most places, but there is still work to do.

Two days ago, I was walking across the street to meet my husband for dinner. I was crossing Lombard, owned by ODOT. I pressed the push button and waited for a walk signal. It was a beautiful, sunny, summery day, and there were two other people also stopped waiting to cross. We received a walk signal, cars started slowing and stopping for us, and we started crossing. We didn't see the car coming from the other direction that did not stop until it was too late.

The other woman in the crosswalk was about 10 feet in front of me. I screamed in horror as I saw the car run the red light and strike her body, sending her flying 15 feet into the air. Her body crumpled on the ground 30 feet away from where she was just moments ago walking in peace in the crosswalk. Her husband immediately broke into hysterics and ran to kneel over her body as we called 911. I couldn't help thinking about how I would feel if it was my husband, sister, or friend.

When I say that I urge you to support of House Bill 2025, particularly the investments in Safe Routes to School and the Great Streets programs, it is because I am asking for us to try to put an end to the horror that I experienced that day. Because we need safe places for our children, mothers, friends— entire community to walk without fear of death.

These programs are lifelines, funding safe crossings, sidewalks, lighting, and bikeways that connect people to schools, jobs, transit, and community. Without this funding, too many Oregonians, especially children, seniors, and people with disabilities, are forced to travel dangerous roads every day.

The \$50 million for Safe Routes will save lives and ensure that our youth can walk and bike to school safely. The \$250 million for Great Streets will support local main street transformations that improve safety, support local economies, and help communities adapt to climate impacts.

Finally, I want to highlight the importance of completing our active transportation network. On-street investments must be matched with funding for off-street routes as well. Please include support for the Oregon Community Paths program to help fill these critical gaps.

Please pass HB 2025 and ensure these safety programs are fully funded. The future of our climate, livability of our cities and towns, and safety of our children depends on

it.