

Submitter: Ben Mitchell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Hello, my name is Ben Mitchell and I am a City Councilor for the City of Hood River.

I am writing to you in support of HB 2025, and particularly the \$125 million it includes for the Great Streets Fund, which as I understand, is the fund where jurisdictional transfer payments will come from.

The City of Hood River is currently pursuing a jurisdictional transfer for a portion of OR 281, which is the main artery of the city's Heights Business District. The city is requesting this funding so we can move forward with many crucial infrastructure improvements in this area. This is a critical transportation project, as this heavily utilized roadway is in bad condition, the sidewalks are crumbling, and there is no bike or transit infrastructure in this section of road that is within a 1-mile radius of nearly all Hood River residences. Our middle school, hospital, community college, an elder care facility, and a grocery store are all served by this road. Furthermore, it also serves as a crucial link between the middle and upper Hood River Valley and the city.

Our application is supported by ODOT and was recommended by the Jurisdictional Transfer Advisory Committee. Should this bill pass and should the city's jurisdictional transfer request get funded, this would be transformational for the city, allowing the Heights Business District to thrive, improving traffic flow, and providing safe biking and pedestrian infrastructure for our community.

As a public servant, I greatly appreciate the important work you do and the hard decisions that you have to make. Thank you very much for your time and your service to our great state.

Sincerely,

Ben Mitchell, Hood River City Councilor