

Submitter: Jim Tolles

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Dear Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Vice Chair Starr, Vice Chair Boshart Davis, and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment,

Thank you for all your hard work on HB2025.

And thanks to whomever is reading though the many testimonies that have been posted online.

I am offering support for HB2025 with encouragement for making amendments that include funding for Oregon Community Paths and dedicated funding for infrastructure that enables alternative fuel transportation such as electric or hydrogen fuel cell cars.

Alternative fuel transportation is growing, and Oregon needs to embrace this trend. The International Energy Association's Global EV Outlook report predicts that "electric cars' market share is on course to exceed 40% by 2030." In the U.S., more than 1 in 10 cars sold was an EV in 2024.

One possible idea that increased funding would allow for includes establishing shovel-ready sites along our major transit corridors (I-5, I-84, 97, etc.) supporting fueling stations for alternative fuel vehicles. Projects like this invite investment into Oregon's economy, create more jobs for Oregon workers, and entice companies in the transportation and energy industries to come to Oregon.

I'm happy to see support for Great Streets and Safe Routes to Schools. But we also need the Oregon Community Paths to help fill in the gaps to more fully interconnect people, cities, and the outdoors for bicycling and walking.

Doing so elevates wear and tear on our transportation system. Simply put, fewer cars driving means less impact on our roads. Additionally, if it is easier to walk or bike to a job, a store, or to a restaurant than to drive, more people will do that.

Having people walk and bike benefits public health, as people who walk and bike support their physical health. This can take some pressure off our healthcare system in the long run.

Finally, these multi-modal interconnected cities and regions enhances livability. We're in a new age of hyper-mobility. People can go wherever they want to and work remotely. What makes a place like Bend attractive are things like the ease of biking

and walking around some parts of town. Bend has more work to do, but it's clear that people want this type of livability. And if other cities do this better, then these people can very easily leave and take their taxable earnings to another city or state.

Continued investment in interconnected bike and pedestrian pathways is a multi-win situation, and those projects already agreed upon in the 2017 package must be continued.

Once again, thanks for your hard work on this. I'm glad that you're establishing funding for our transportation for the long-term and have increased oversight on ODOT.

Best wishes,

Jim Tolles