

Submitter: Kerry Aszklar

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kerry, and I live in North Portland. I'm submitting testimony today to ask for your support for the submitted amendment to HB 2025 to increase investment in Oregon Community Paths via the Multimodal Active Transportation Fund through a luxury vehicle tax. Here's why:

- More than 80% of Oregonians report using local trails or off-street paths, and there is broad public support for investing in trails.

- Safety: Off-street paths provide the safest alternatives to walking or riding on high-speed and high-traffic roadways, and ODOT's Oregon Community Paths program is a critical tool alongside Great Streets and Safe Routes to School, in addressing the epidemic of traffic fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways.

- Economic Impact: In addition to saving lives and healthcare system costs, off-street paths are extremely valuable visitor amenities and support Oregon's outdoor recreation and tourism economies and the economic vitality of Oregon communities. While we lack Oregon-specific data on trails Return On Investment, the ROI of significant trail investments nationwide is well-documented.

- Leverage Federal Funds: Oregon Community Paths program provides one of the only sources of matching funds for the state and for local governments to leverage federal funding for trail projects in Oregon.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. Please fund trails!