

Submitter: Mike Houck  
On Behalf Of: Urban Greenspaces Institute  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025  
From: Mike Houck

Re: Amendment to HB 2025, investment in Oregon Community Paths through a luxury vehicle tax Amendment

I am writing to urge your support for an amendment to HB 2025 that would increase investment in Oregon Community Paths through a luxury vehicle tax. More than 80% of Oregonians use local trails or off-street paths, and there is broad public support for investing in trails. There many reasons to support trails and off-street paths:

**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.

I hope I can count on your support for the amendment to HB 2025.

Respectfully,

Mike Houck, Director