



June 13, 2025

BOARD

Daniela Brod,
Chair

Tom Liptan,
Secretary

Peg Malloy,
Treasurer

Mike Faha

Steve Robertson

Amy Chomowicz

Mike Houck,
Director

To: Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Houck", written over a horizontal line.

Mike Houck, Director

In Livable Cities is Preservation of the Wild

P.O. Box 6903 | Portland, OR 97228-6903 | 503.319.7155 | www.urbangreenspaces.org