

Submitter:

Alan Shusterman

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek and Members of the Committee,

My name is Alan Shusterman. My wife and I have been living in inner NE Portland for the past 35 years. We raised two children here and are now helping raise our grandchildren who live nearby. I am writing to you today in support of House Bill 2025 because I want safer streets for my family and my community.

We live in a high traffic neighborhood. Our front door opens onto a neighborhood arterial, a street that had speed bumps added to it only after my neighbors and I organized to document speed violations and demand a safer street. Even so, car crashes (not to mention near misses) on this street are common. We have even come home to find tire tracks running through our front yard and car parts scattered on the street and in the yard.

Every day, hundreds of children cross this arterial on their way to our local elementary school, and again later to get home. I always worry when I see pedestrians and bike riders at my corner. I can only hope that they, and the thousands of drivers who zoom through, will be attentive and careful.

I know that there are no easy answers when it comes to safety, but I strongly believe that the Safe Routes to School and Great Streets programs offer significant steps in the right direction, making our streets safer for everyone, especially kids, elders, and people who don't drive.

Finally, while I fully support on-street safety investments, they often lead nowhere if we don't also fund off-street connections. That is why I urge you to include funding for the Oregon Community Paths program to create a complete and connected network.

I strongly urge you to support HB 2025 and fully fund these life-saving programs.