

Submitter: Laurel Viles

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek, Vice Chairs Boshart-Davis and Starr, and members of the committee:

My name is Laurel Viles, and I live in SE Portland. I have a vision for everyone who walks, bikes, rolls, buses, or drives. That vision includes a plan for everyone to get around safely, breathe clean air, and trust that their tax dollars are being spent wisely. It is possible with a transportation package that benefits people from all neighborhoods, keeps ODOT accountable, improves our local economies, and is climate-forward. Almost 20% of all Oregon households include people who use transit at least once a week. Imagine how many more could use it if lawmakers commit to investing in multimodal transportation. I am happy to see accountability and

Our rural communities are often left behind, and this is evident in my hometown. As a teenager, I had no car to get around, and my closest bus stop was over two miles from my house. I lived on a road without sidewalks, and drivers were consistently speeding over the 50 MPH posted speed limit. I was forced to walk an unsafe route to get to my volunteer job and had some close calls with drivers who did not see me in rainy, dark conditions.

Oregon's legislators must work together to update the current framework of the transportation package to be safe for all. Public transit needs expansion, so that every Oregonian has access to explore their cities and make it to their destinations on time. It must also be healthy for the people and the environment, reducing emissions wherever possible. This means we must include electrification, which is missing from the current bill. Fully fund Great Streets, Safe Routes to School, and Oregon Community Paths. Fully fund public transit and passenger rail service. Fund critical electrification programs to increase access to charging and lower barriers to decarbonization.