



June 13, 2025

Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek, and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment,

Thank you for the opportunity to express Central Oregon Builders Association's strong support for House Bill 2025, which includes the Great Streets Fund, a source of funding that could support crucial transportation infrastructure in the southeast area of Bend. These transportation improvements would serve the dual benefit of increasing traffic safety and transportation mobility, and supporting Governor Kotek's housing production goals

There are 7,500 homes in the approval process in Southeast Bend, of which over 1,000 will be deed-restricted affordable. These will be complete communities that include schools, parks, and commercial amenities. They cannot be developed efficiently, however, due to extensive transportation safety improvements that are necessary to bring the current county roads to city standards, and improve intersection safety. The funding associated with HB 2025 would catalyze these improvements, and would expedite the construction of thousands of units of needed housing.

The transportation safety improvements necessary in this area are all excellent candidates for the Great Streets Fund identified in HB 2025. Bringing county roads up to city street standards would improve safety, access, and mobility for all users; construction of sidewalks, curb ramps, crosswalks, lighting, and bike lanes would promote complete roadways and reduce both vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions. These are qualifying criteria identified in the bill language. In their entirety, these transportation safety improvements would support multimodal connectivity, and shift current traffic from South Highway 97 by creating parallel right-sized roadways that can safely accommodate current and future traffic volume.

Developers are committed to working with the City of Bend to use state funding made available by House Bill 2025 to both increase traffic safety and increase housing production in Southeast Bend. Central Oregon Builders Association urges you to support this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Morgan Greenwood", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Morgan Greenwood
VP, Government Affairs
Central Oregon Builders Association