Submitter: Steve Bade

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 Steve Bade, and I live in Eugene. I'm a retired librarian and current Board President for the Eugene-Springfield metro area's 501(c)(3) tool lending library, also active with Eugene Makerspace. I am also a Board member for Better Eugene Springfield Transportation aka BEST, and a former two-term City of Eugene Active Transportation Committee member.

I'm writing in support of House Bill 2025. I fully support the SMART Framework: Safe, Modern, Affordable, Reliable, Transportation for a Thriving Oregon as published by the Legislative Environmental Caucus.

I am particularly in favor of the investments in Safe Routes to School and the Great Streets programs. I want safer streets for my family and my community.

These programs are lifelines. They fund safe crossings, sidewalks, lighting, and bikeways that connect people to schools, jobs, transit, and community. Without this funding, too many Oregonians, especially children, seniors, and people with disabilities, are forced to travel dangerous roads every day.

The $50 million for Safe Routes will save lives and ensure that our youth can get to school safely. The $250 million for Great Streets will support local transformations that will improve safety, support local economies, and help communities adapt to climate impacts.

Finally, I want to highlight the importance of completing our active transportation network. On-street investments must be matched with funding for off-street routes as well. Please include support for the Oregon Community Paths program to help fill these critical gaps.

This package presents an opportunity to invest in what matters most to our communities: safe streets, clean air, and reliable transit for all Oregonians including the 30% who don't or can't drive. Please pass HB 2025 and ensure these safety programs are fully funded.

Respectfully...