

Submitter: Mel Scott

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,

Please FULLY FUND Safe Routes to School, Great Streets, and Oregon Community Paths will improve safety and quality of life for all Oregonians.

This FUNDING is SORELY NEEDED and a great investment for All of Oregon.

A fully-funded, safe, multimodal system keeps people and goods moving and families and businesses thriving.

I've nearly been hit both during my travel to and from work but also while heading to spend that hard earned money. I had the white hand signal motioning me to cross a road or highway. I do not jay walk and follow all rules but it's not enough.

Unfortunately, drivers are not always willing to yield and no signal computes that action. . .

Two of my coworkers were hit on their bikes. One of them faced a long time without a new bike because it was too expensive to replace.

Another coworker was hit and her jaw broken coming from breakfast with friends at a busy intersection. She was pregnant.

And many of us mourned one of our coworkers had been admitted into a program at PSU, only to lose his life to what ended up being poor street maintenance interfering with his motorcycle ride.

My partner has a neighborhood friend that was hit by a driver while he was riding his motor cycle. It took him months to recover and he was usually in shock when we saw him.

A woman who is a neighbor of a friend told my partner she had been hit and wondered confusingly what to do as her pain was beginning to show.

Here is an article presenting the very big issue on a national scale published in 2024 : <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/01/10/magazine/dangerous-driving.html>

I've had coworkers need gas money and have no money for food after filling the tank.

One lived where even taking a bus was Not available. The other just found the car more reliable. Both would have taken the bus were Available and Reliable.

Someone I consider to be a mentor is suffering from Long covid. Brain fog is a frequent symptom . Walking or bicycling can help alleviate this symptom. In order for this to be tried safe routes must be given.

Mental decline can happen when driving every where and having no choice of feeling free from a caged car in a traffic jam.

For transit to be safe and frequent, more people must be on board. Safety in numbers and more people as riders gets TriMet to add vehicles We're now in climate change and the wait time becomes life threatening.

I've been invited by farmers to their farm as a valued customer for events they planned to raise money but I couldn't go because I don't own a car.

Oregon could use a well regulated rail option for travel which would invigorate economies where poverty exists and part of that equation may very well be that car is the only way in or out. Regulation is a crucial part as to not destroy where one lives but to allow for a larger door way in and out.

Having a well used public transit is important for speedy evacuation which was missing recently with the fires in L.A. because the community didn't want it. Police had to then try and clear the many lane highway of cars during the fire.

Furthermore, No one should have carcinogenic air reported in their zip code and my mostly white neighborhood had this when I was using the EPA's website in 2022. Regulation of pollution on roadways can probably lessen how often we must breathe in bad air while trying to get fresh air.

We all deserve to act on our love of the great outdoors and our true acceptance of differences among Oregonians and those we encounter celebrating the desire to coexist especially with nature. HB 2025 should be designed with that spirit in mind which is why NOT to be either/ or in the passage.

Additionally and lastly, I urge you to support a forthcoming amendment that will create a new, progressive Luxury Vehicle Sales Tax. This is a tax that invigorates revenue and excites me to see implemented.

Thank you!