

Submitter: Rebecca Sanders

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 Dr. Rebecca Sanders, and I live in Portland. I study traffic safety for a living, conducting safety analysis and research across the country and advising governments on safety policy. I am also a mother of two children who walk and bike to school. I care deeply about the safety of our communities in Oregon and urge you to support House Bill 2025, particularly the investments in Safe Routes to School and the Great Streets programs that will lead to safer streets for Oregonians.

These programs have been shown to be lifelines for communities, funding safe crossings, sidewalks, lighting, and bikeways that provide critical connections for people going to schools, jobs, transit, and community. Without this funding, too many Oregonians, especially children, seniors, and people with disabilities -- the most vulnerable among us, are forced to travel dangerous roads every day.

The \$50 million for Safe Routes will save lives and help to ensure that our youth can walk and bike to school safely. The \$250 million for Great Streets will support local main street transformations that improve safety, support local economies, provide important opportunities for physical activity, 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 bill provides an opportunity for Oregon to invest in our communities and show strong leadership on a critical issue. Please pass HB 2025 and ensure these safety programs are fully funded.