

Submitter: Janel Spilker

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 Janel Spilker, and I live in Bend, Oregon. I'm testifying today because I support a 2025 transportation package that works for ALL Oregonians and reflects our shared values of safety, affordability, equity, and climate resilience. In particular, I urge you to fully fund the Safe Routes to School, Great Streets, and Oregon Community Paths programs.

Oregon's communities need a better transportation system that is healthy, affordable, and safe. Imagine an Oregon where we all have choice in how we get to work/school/around town and can choose knowing they are all safe option because of the infrastructure in the community. Relatively small investments now can have huge payouts in getting all Oregonians where they need to go while improving our economy, environment, and public health.

It's essential to pass a transportation package that:

? Advances our climate goals.

? Invests deeply in safety.

Then, expand on your example by telling your personal story:

? As a youth cycling coach and former teacher, I see the freedom and empowerment that comes from kids riding bikes to school – and it results in better health, lower environmental impact, and a life-long appreciation of the outdoors and community.

? I try to walk and ride my bike for many of my trips around town, all year round. Investing in safe infrastructure for pedestrians, cyclists and other alternative forms of transportation will increase the number of folks who feel safe picking this option.

? And despite not yet owning an electric vehicle, I recently paid to have the charging options installed in my home so that I will be ready to have an electric vehicle – and I urge the state to have similar forward thinking when it comes to electrifying Oregon transportation infrastructure.

New dollars must be prioritized to meet our safety, climate, and mobility needs. If we're going to ask Oregonians to pay more, we have an obligation to put their dollars to work for the future.

That means:

? Improving health and safety by funding popular but underfunded programs like Safe Routes to School, Great Streets, and Oregon Community Paths.

? Improving air quality and lowering pollution by funding clean transportation programs to help low-income Oregonians purchase electric vehicles, put more clean, zero-emission trucks on our roads, and expand charging infrastructure statewide.

We can't afford to wait. Let's build a future where every Oregonian has access to safe, reliable, and sustainable transportation options. I urge you to pass a transportation package this session that moves Oregon forward.

Sincerely,  
Janel Spilker  
Bend, Oregon