

Submitter: Kent Wu

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek and Members of the Committee,

Hi my name is Kent Wu, of the South Tabor neighborhood in Portland. I'm an Architect, and more importantly a father who wants to see a safer Oregon, less polluted neighborhood, less deadly streets for my children, Our neighborhood is adjacent to one of the most lethal highways that cut through Portland neighborhoods. Multiple people have been killed this year alone. One in particular is Roger Lee, an elderly Asian man, after getting off the bus. Great streets are what should connect people and places while Powell Blvd. separates our home to a thriving commercial district of Foster Powell, our local Holgate Library and Mt. Scott recreation center. I'm sick and tired of seeing makeshift memorials blocks away from schools my young children and their friends will attend.

I ask you, the next time you get in your car or any mode of transportation think and observe about the massive amount of infrastructure also known as liabilities that we've inherited to support the movement of cars instead of people and goods. From the humble stop sign that was put there to protect cars from bashing into each other and people to the massive overpasses with enough concrete and steel that could build 100s of homes or apartments, all of it is a costly endeavor that needs to be paid for and supported.

Please reconsider the mass amount of funding flowing to highway mega projects to only burden our next generation with debt and less opportunity and invest more in Safe Routes to School and the Great Streets programs that build community and prosperity for people and communities across our beautiful state.

Streets to connect us, not kill us.

Kent Wu