

Submitter: elias b

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 Elias and I live in Portland, Centennial neighborhood. I'm a student and hard worker who navigates Portland regularly in order to be a part of society.

I'm here to testify in support of House Bill 2025, particularly the investments in Safe Routes to School and the Great Streets programs.

These programs are lifelines, funding 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 walk and bike to school safely. The \$250 million for Great Streets will support local main street transformations that 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.

Please pass HB 2025 and ensure these safety programs are fully funded.