

Submitter:

Michelle DuBarry

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Co chairs Pham and McClain, members of the committee:

Families for Safe Streets is an organization whose members have been personally impacted by traffic crashes. We have all been seriously injured or lost a loved one in a crash. We support a 2025 transportation package that works for ALL Oregonians including the 30% who don't drive.

Most of us are bereaved parents who have lost children in crashes, so we know the stakes of this conversation better than most. In 2010 my firstborn son was killed by a careless driver in a Portland crosswalk. He was 22 months old. My husband, who was pushing him in his stroller, was also injured. That's when I realized that painted lines in the street was not enough to protect my children. We need physical barriers to protect us from cars. We need infrastructure that slows traffic, makes drivers pay attention. We need safe, affordable alternatives to driving.

Small investments in infrastructure can save lives and prevent crashes like the one that killed my son. Somehow, there is never money for things like sidewalks, traffic calming, and physical barriers between cars and people who are walking and biking.

Passing HB 2025 this session will keep our children safe. It will keep transit running. It will keep Oregonians employed. It's not a perfect bill - we are disappointed that electrification and trails funding has not been adequately funded. But it's progress that is vitally important to Oregon families. Thank you for your consideration.