

Submitter: Cathleen Corlett

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction

Measure, Appointment or SB1601
Topic:

Dear Chari Girod, Chair Nosse and members of the committee,

I am writing concerning the -3 amendment to SB 1601. Please do not even think about redirecting funding from the Oregon Community Paths and Safe Routes to Schools programs to fund highway maintenance and operations. This would be an extremely unpopular move and you won't hear the end of it.

It is unfair and shortsighted to move money away from the scarce funding for trails and off-street routes just to fill a small hole in the already bloated highway operations and maintenance budget.

Over 80% of Oregonians use local trails and paths, which is more than drive. Lives are at stake! The Oregon Community Paths and Safe Routes to School program is already ridiculously underfunded, and when people don't have access to off-street paths (which should be funded by the bike tax) they can die on our streets. Pedestrians and cars don't mix!

You might think nobody will care if you make budget cuts to the Multimodal Active Transportation Fund, Transportation Operating Funds, and Safe Routes to Schools Funds, but you are wrong! We are watching and these funds need to stay in place.

On behalf of the many children, bicyclists and non-car-owning Oregonians who depend on safe paths and trails whom you may not hear from today,

Thank you.