



March 2, 2026

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

I am writing to urge you not to redirect funding from the Oregon Community Paths and Safe Routes to School programs to highway maintenance and operations, as is laid out in the -3 amendment to SB 1601.

The Intertwine Alliance is the Portland region's coalition of 85 public, private and nonprofit partners working for our system of parks, trails, greenspace and for access to nature for all communities. We support redirecting funds to operations and maintenance of the current transportation system, but not at the expense of the safety of our most vulnerable community members, our schoolchildren and others who cannot drive. We suggest major highway project funding be redirected to meet the current highway operations and maintenance needs instead.

More than 80 percent of Oregonians report using local trails. That is a higher percentage of Oregonians than those who drive. Off-street paths provide the absolute safest places in our community for people of all ages and abilities to walk and bike. The Oregon Community Paths and Safe Routes to School program are already tragically underfunded, and people continue to die on our streets as a result.

Please preserve the following funds from any budget cuts:

- Multimodal Active Transportation Fund: funded in part by the bike tax and currently directed entirely to Oregon Community Paths program to fund safe, off-street alternatives.
- Transportation Operating Funds: non-street funding that funds passenger rail, paths, and para-transit)
- Safe Routes to School Funds

Sincerely,

Tara Wilkinson, Director
The Intertwine Alliance
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