

Submitter: Heather Wolfgang

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1601

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

I write you as a mother of two children that ride bikes regularly to school and around our community, as well as a director of a statewide nonprofit that supports 5-12th graders' off-road cycling endeavors.

Please do not redirect funding from the Oregon Community Paths and Safe Routes to School programs to highway maintenance and operations as currently laid out in the -3 amendment to SB 1601. I understand the need for funds for operations and maintenance of the current transportation system, but it can't be at expense of the safety of community members, notably children. Major highway project funding should be redirected to meet the current highway operations and maintenance needs instead.

With organizations like the Bike Bus getting more people out to ride their bikes to school and their communities, we're seeing the desire for safe routes (to school and beyond) will only increase. The Oregon Community Paths and Safe Routes to School program are already severely underfunded, and people continue to get injured on our streets as a result. Off-street paths are the safest places in our community for people of all ages and abilities to walk and bike.

Please preserve the following funds from any budget cuts:

- Safe Routes to School Funds
- 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)

Sincerely,
Heather Wolfgang