

Submitter: Aaron Kuehn

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 am writing in strong opposition to the -3 amendment to SB 1601, which would redirect funding from the **Oregon Community Paths program** and other multimodal investments to highway maintenance.

I want to emphasize one critical point: the bicycle excise tax was created to fund bicycle infrastructure. It must be used only for bicycle projects. Redirecting bike tax revenue away from off-street paths and into highway maintenance breaks faith with the public and undermines the very purpose of the tax.

Because Oregon's constitution already restricts gas tax dollars from being spent on off-street paths, programs like the Oregon Community Paths program rely on the **Multimodal Active Transportation Fund**—including bike tax revenue—as one of their only dedicated funding sources. These funds were intentionally structured to support projects outside the road right of way: safe, separated, off-street facilities that protect children, seniors, and people who cannot or choose not to drive.

The Oregon Community Paths program is chronically underfunded. Communities across the state have shovel-ready projects that would close dangerous gaps, connect schools to neighborhoods, and create safe alternatives to high-speed roads. Diverting bike tax dollars now would stall or cancel these life-saving investments.

If additional funding is needed for highway maintenance, it should come from highway-focused revenue sources—not from the small, voter-supported funds dedicated to active transportation.

Please preserve:

- * The Multimodal Active Transportation Fund (including all bike tax revenue) exclusively for bicycle and off-street path projects
- * Transportation Operating Funds for non-road uses
- * Safe Routes to School funds

Oregonians expect dedicated funding streams to be honored. Please reject the -3 amendment and protect the Oregon Community Paths program.

Thank you for your consideration.