

Submitter: Anders Hart

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

Measure: SB 1601-3

Co-chairs Lieber and Sanchez and co-vice chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith:

I urge you to preserve funding for the Multimodal Active Transportation Fund, Transportation Operating Fund, and Safe Routes in the -3 amendment to SB 1601. These programs provide critical resources to support life-saving transportation options for the most vulnerable members of our community.

Safe Routes to School is already underfunded, and cutting its life-saving funding will leave dangerous conditions for children in place. Local trails supported by the Multimodal Active Transportation Fund provide safe places for people of all ages and abilities to reach their daily destinations, enjoy recreational opportunities, and reduce their environmental impact.

It makes no sense to cut funding from these programs while the state continues to support over-budget freeway megaprojects like the Rose Quarter Improvement Project and Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) Project. These projects should be scaled back to meet their core objectives: for the IBR, only the bridge structure itself should be replaced, and for the Rose Quarter, only the freeway cap should be built without widening I-5. The savings from right-sizing these projects should be redirected to highway operations and maintenance.

As our neighbors continue to die on our streets and climate change accelerates, now is the time to prioritize safety and low-carbon transportation, not freeway megaprojects.

Sincerely,

Anders Hart