

Submitter: Helena Birecki

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1601

To all members of the Joint Sub-Committee on Capital Construction,

I am writing to oppose cuts to active transportation, rail funding, and electric vehicle charging in SB 1601-3. Please do not divert any funds from

* the Multimodal Active Transportation Fund that funds Oregon Community Paths in part by the Bicycle Excise Tax passed for that purpose

* Transportation Operating Funds which fund passenger rail, paths, and para-transit

* Safe Routes to School

I want to see you balance the budget by reining in overspending on large projects, and closing corporate tax loopholes. Instead you choose to strip money from already underfunded yet extremely valuable and much loved projects. The cuts to Community Paths, Safe Routes to School, passenger rail, community charging grants, and para-transit are incredibly short sighted and harmful to Oregon. These cuts:

1) increase pollution thereby asthma rates, heart attacks, premature births, and premature deaths

2) increase fatalities on the road both by reduced access to bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and more accidents with increased car traffic

3) are not sufficient or sustainable to meet the goal of road repair they are set out to meet.

Instead of a death by a thousand cuts to our whole transportation system-- including road repair-- stand up for your constituents and get sufficient funding from sources that make sense!

Here I'm writing to the Democrats on the Committee, because it's pretty clear that most of the Republicans actively want to inflict a death by a thousand cuts to all of our public infrastructure, transportation included: They are not compromising with you. Stop compromising with them.

Separately, what on earth is a change in lottery allocation that will uncap contributions to state fairs doing in a bill that is stated to be about "judicial compensation" and mainly consists of transportation funding decisions?

For that matter, why not direct lottery funds towards road repair instead of cutting community paths that families might use to get to their county fair...

This bill is a mess and has a lot of harmful elements.

Vote NO.

Sincerely,
Helena Birecki