

March 4, 2026

To: Chair Girod, Chair Nosse, and members of the committee,

I urge the legislature to reject the proposed cuts to Safe Routes to School and Oregon Community Paths.

Balancing the transportation budget by cutting programs that protect school children, disabled commuters, and other vulnerable community members is the wrong approach. The proposal removes \$17 million from Safe Routes to School and \$8 million from Oregon Community Paths—more than 60% of both programs' budget.

These programs fund essential safety infrastructure such as crossings, sidewalks, and community paths that allow children and others to travel safely to school, work, and daily activities. They make it possible for children, seniors, and people with disabilities to move safely throughout their communities. **These programs were created with broad support because they work.**

Cutting these programs will not solve the transportation funding gap—it simply shifts the cost to undermine the safety of children, seniors, and people with disabilities.

Safety should not be negotiable. I urge you to maintain full funding for Safe Routes to School and Oregon Community Paths.

Debra Dunn

Mother and Grandmother

Portland, Oregon