

Submitter: Charlie Loeb

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1601

My family recently bought two new bikes and happily paid the excise tax because we knew the money was going to the Oregon Community Paths program to build more bicycle infrastructure. Now SB1601 is proposing to divert a chunk of the Community Paths money for other purposes? I am completely opposed to this reallocation of funding. Oregon already invests far too little in supporting modes of transportation other than driving.

That is only one of the poor choices being made in SB1601. I also particularly object to the reallocation of \$17 million in funding for Safe Routes to Schools. This is an invaluable program that helps students get safely to school.

I realize that there is a significant budget gap brought about by the failed transportation bill in the last legislative session. This gap should not be closed by taking funds away from transportation services for the most vulnerable users and those who put the least pressure and wear-and-tear on the system. It will be way more cost-efficient to support people using modes of transportation other than automobiles.