



The Salmonberry Trail Foundation
P.O. Box 3193
Hillsboro, OR 97123
A 501(c)(3) charitable organization
EIN #83-3675072

March 4, 2026

Dear Chair Girod, Chair Nosse, and members of the committee,

My name is Gavin Mahaley, and I serve as Communications & Development Director for the Salmonberry Trail Foundation. **I am writing in opposition to the proposed funding shift in the -3 amendment to SB 1601**, which would redirect resources away from the **Oregon Community Paths** and **Safe Routes to School** programs and toward highway maintenance and operations.

We agree that Oregon needs to invest in operations and maintenance of the existing transportation system. But we should not do it by pulling funds from the very programs that most directly protect people who are least protected on our roads: kids walking and biking to school, seniors, and people who cannot or do not drive.

The core issue here is safety and access. Off-street community paths and Safe Routes to School investments are among the most effective ways to reduce conflicts between people and vehicles. They create predictable, separated routes that work for families, students, and people with mobility needs, including in places where there may be no realistic alternative to walking, biking, or rolling.

If the legislature needs to backfill highway operations and maintenance, we urge you to look first to major highway project funding, not to the limited resources that support safer options and school access.

Please preserve the following funds from any budget cuts or diversions:

- **Multimodal Active Transportation Fund (including bike tax revenues), currently directed to the Oregon Community Paths program to fund safe, off-street alternatives.**
- **Transportation Operating Funds that support passenger rail, paths, and paratransit.**
- **Safe Routes to School funds.**

Oregon can maintain its transportation system and still protect the safety of the people most at risk. The -3 amendment gets that balance backwards. Please keep Oregon Community Paths and Safe Routes to School whole as SB 1601 moves forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gavin Mahaley
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