



February 19, 2013

To: Chair Beyer and members of the Business, Transportation and Economic Development Committee

Re: Written Testimony in support of Connect Oregon Plus (SB 247)

Chair Beyer and members of the Committee,

I am writing to urge your support of Connect Oregon Plus (SB 247). This initiative would provide needed funding to improve transportation options across the state, while creating jobs in the construction industry. The legislation would get us closer to reaching the 2030 goal of the Oregon Transportation Plan that requires more walking, biking and public transit infrastructure. These transportation options create more economic development per dollar than roadway construction, and also help support environmental and public health priorities.

Upstream Public Health is dedicated to improving the health of Oregonians by supporting smart policies that allow people to thrive in their daily lives. We advocate for increased infrastructure for active forms of transportation including walking, biking and public transit. People often prefer these forms of transportation when they are convenient for daily use. In addition, active forms of transportation help combat obesity, reduce collision fatalities and reduce our impact on global warming.

Without a valuable initiative like Connect Oregon Plus, we would see a cut back in needed bus and public transit services that are being utilized by many Oregonians across the state. Connect Oregon Plus is a smart investment to create jobs and promote critical transportation options for Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Mel Rader, Co-Executive Director