



Oregon  
Environmental  
Council  
It's Your Oregon

222 NW Davis Street  
Suite 309  
Portland, OR 97209-3900  
503.222.1963  
www.oeconline.org

## **Written Testimony to the House Committee on Transportation Policy on House Bill 3230**

**April 12, 2017**

**Chris Hagerbaumer, Deputy Director  
Oregon Environmental Council**

Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Oregon Environmental Council supports HB 3230.

Many schools lack sidewalks, traffic signals, or other infrastructure that maximizes children's safety when they're walking or bicycling to school. In part due to unsafe conditions, many parents drive their kids to school, which not only adds to congestion, but ironically makes it even less safe for kids to walk or bike because there are more cars on those unsafe routes.

HB 3230 would create new policy direction for the Oregon Department of Transportation to administer dedicated Safe Routes to School street safety project funding within a one-mile radius of schools, prioritizing schools that are Title 1, and ensuring these projects are coordinated with education and encouragement investments.

Safe routes to school aren't just for kids: the whole community benefits from safer walking and biking routes. When our communities are safe for kids to bike and walk, they are safe for everyone to bike and walk, which results in healthier residents, less traffic, less air pollution, and more interaction among neighbors.

In addition, the congestion benefits are nothing to sneeze about. National Safe Routes to School surveyed seven schools and found that traffic around schools was reduced by 13-40% with Safe Routes to School programs. See [Getting Results: SRTS Programs that Reduce Traffic](#).

It's particularly important to Oregon Environmental Council that (1) enough funding is dedicated to build sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalks, and transit improvements in a one-mile radius around schools; (2) there's a focus on investment in Title 1 schools where over 50% of students are eligible to receive free and reduced lunch; and (3) dollars are dedicated to expanding safety education and encouragement programs in the classroom.

We urge passage of HB 3230. Thank you for your consideration.