

Dear Senator Beyer, Representative McKeown and Fellow Committee Members,

The Transportation Bill provides a solid beginning to improve and preserve Oregon's transportation system. The Transportation Options Group of Oregon (ToGo), a statewide organization representing transportation providers, large employers, higher educational institutions, and health care facilities supports the bill almost in its entirety including raising user-born revenues for street and bicycle infrastructure and employee payroll tax for improving transit service.

The primary amendment ToGo suggests is to the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs' match requirement. ToGo recommends amending the HB 2017 3 to allow for use of local SRTS programs costs for a portion of the match requirement. For example, with an award of \$300,000 toward a sidewalk infill project, the match required would be \$200,000, or 40% of the total project. We would like the Committee to consider allowing up to 50% of the local match requirement to be for programs. In this case a SRTS program could be provided for \$100,000 and would last for several years to include ongoing bicycle and pedestrian safety training, coordinating walking bus programs and creating travel training tools for both teachers and students. It will be up to the individual applicant how much, if any, they would like to dedicate from their local match to accommodate this important part of SRTS.

The Transportation Options Group of Oregon members represent over 30 TO urban and rural programs throughout the state including Bend, Medford, Eugene, Corvallis, Kiamath Falls, Salem and Portland.

Sincerely,

Paige Townsend
ToGo Legislative Committee Chair and 2016 President