

Testimony to the House Committee on Transportation Policy on House Bill 2667

February 15, 2017

**Gerik Kransky, The Street Trust,
(formerly The Bicycle Transportation Alliance)**

The Street Trust supports HB 2667 to establish a task force focused on eliminating all serious injuries and fatalities on our roads in Oregon.

According to American Community Survey data, the amount of Oregonians walking and biking to work between 2011 and 2013 was approximately 6.6%.¹ Yet 20% of all fatalities during that same time period were people walking and biking, according to Oregon Department of Transportation traffic crash data.²

The contrast is unsettling and calls for a new approach. While traditional approaches to transportation safety prioritize reducing or preventing collisions, Vision Zero focuses on preventing injuries. The vulnerability of the human body—not the collision itself—should drive the design of our transportation system.

Traffic deaths are preventable, just like other public hazards such as diseases that we prevent with vaccines. Vision Zero calls for us to be proactive, to identify risk and take steps to prevent injuries by designing our transportation system in a way that collisions won't result in fatal or serious injury. This bill will create a new multidisciplinary task force to examine strategies to eliminate serious injuries and fatalities on our roads.

Vision Zero helps us change our thinking from collision reduction to injury prevention and represents a significant shift from engineering to a public health perspective. Instead of asking, "Why did that person crash?" a Vision Zero framework examines, "Why was that person so seriously injured in the crash?"³

Now is the time to convene a broad group of stakeholders and experts to compile a list of public health-focused recommendations and take action to eliminate all serious injuries and fatalities on our roads. **Please vote yes on HB 2667.**

¹ Alliance for Biking and Walking Benchmarking Report – Page 82
<http://www.bikewalkalliance.org/download-the-2016-benchmarking-report>

² ODOT Crash Analysis & Reporting - Quick Facts
http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TD/TDATA/pages/car/car_publications.aspx

³ HOW DOES VISION ZERO DIFFER FROM THE TRADITIONAL APPROACH TO TRAFFIC SAFETY?
<http://visionzeronetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/VZN-Case-Study-1-What-makes-VZ-different.pdf>

618 NW GLISAN.
SUITE 401
PORTLAND, OR 97209
THESTREETTRUST.ORG
(503) 226-0676

