



February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### Testimony on HB 2667

#### PROTECTING YOUR RIGHT TO ROAM

Exactly two years ago on Valentine's Day weekend, two people were killed in one weekend while crossing the street in East Portland. Oregon Walks immediately urged the City of Portland to adopt Vision Zero, the goal of zero deaths on our roads within the city. By December 2016, Portland had adopted this goal and developed a comprehensive action plan in partnership with the Vision Zero Task Force that supports not only the Bureau of Transportation, but the City as a whole, to work collaboratively toward the goal of zero deaths.

We strongly urge you to support HB 2667, and create the type of diverse task force that can guide our entire state toward eliminating fatalities in an equitable, thoughtful, and holistic way. This goal is not an easy lift, and it cannot fall on one agency's shoulders to reach it – in fact, we may never reach zero deaths if we don't work collaboratively, proactively, and immediately on taking the steps necessary to save lives and create livable communities for every person – regardless of how they travel.

However, people walking bear a disproportionate burden of traffic fatalities – and everyone in Oregon is a pedestrian at some point during the day, whether they are walking to their car, using a mobility device, or waiting for a bus. As traffic deaths in Oregon decline overall, pedestrian deaths have remained steady, or even increased. The most dangerous roadways with 7 or more pedestrian deaths in the last 10 years reach across the state – from Clackamas County to Lincoln County. In Multnomah County alone, you are more than 2.5 times more likely to be hit and killed while walking in the lowest income neighborhoods – highlighting how drastic the disparities are in who gets to access the transportation system safely. This bill will prioritize addressing this critical need, while also bringing forth the varying solutions and strategies necessary for all users of our roads, on all roadway types, in all communities.

The time is now for Oregon to show leadership in Vision Zero, and HB 2667 is the necessary start.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Noel Mickelberry".

Noel Mickelberry  
Executive Director