



Central Oregon Cities Organization

Bend, Culver, La Pine, Madras, Maupin
Metolius, Prineville, Redmond, Sisters

February 13, 2018

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Representative Brian Clem, Chair
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Clem and members of the Committee:

The Central Oregon Cities Organization opposes House Bill 4029, which removes important elements of local transportation planning from local choices. HB 4029 as introduced would eliminate the City of Bend's ability to consider a bike/pedestrian bridge across the Deschutes River.

In particular, HB 4029 is in conflict with the 2016 Bend Transportation System Plan (TSP), which was amended in 2006 in response to direction from the Department of Land Use and Development to increase the connectivity of the City's trail system. The TSP specifically references the proposed pedestrian bridge (see Resource Document B.2.3. Assessment of Bicycle and Pedestrian System Needs, Figure 3.) Removal of the proposed pedestrian bridge from the TSP would require an amendment to the plan demonstrating how connectivity could be better provided by an alternative to the bridge.

This bill not only impacts a member city, but establishes a concerning precedent for the region more broadly. We ask that you join us in opposing HB 4029.

Respectfully,

Mayor George Endicott
Central Oregon Cities Organization (COCO) Chair