

Committee members,

Thank you for your consideration, your time and your dedication to service.

I'm writing you today in support of this bill to increase funding for non-motorized transportation infrastructure for project that receive the State Highway Fund.

2020 was quite the year in Portland. A silent but pervasive killer that had already been loose on the streets in 2019 continued to wreak havoc to families and individuals; traffic violence. As i write this, 120 Portlanders have died on Portland roads since 2019. in 2020 alone, 80 people lost their lives in Multnomah county to bad and inadequate infrastructure. Here in the Portsmouth Neighborhood just this year, 5 year old Jaccob Riscajche was killed on a newly built road in the New Columbia area that could have been built better and safer and saved his life. A good friend of mine has been in a wheelchair as a result from a crash in 2013 that left them with a traumatic brain injury because they were riding bike where there was no bike lane. Before the crash they had a promising career, a new home and a new puppy all of which had to be sold by the family just to give them the care they required to come out of the coma the crash put them in. Had there been safe space for them to bike, there is no telling where their potential would have taken them.

Aside from the lost of life, you can look at the economics of developing safe and accessible infrastructure for an economy that relies on tourism as much as Oregon does. Bicycling Tourism brings Billions of dollars to the state annually. By increasing the portion of funding for people walking and biking, you will improve areas and places that bike tourists wouldn't otherwise be able to see or visit and bring more money to more Oregonians in more parts of the state.

Please, support this bill. Support better and safer infrastructure for all Oregonians no matter how we choose or have to get around this beautiful state.

Thank you again for your consideration, your time and your service.

-Paul