

Dear Members of the Joint Transportation Committee,

Fifty years ago, Oregon led the nation in supporting safe access to biking and walking, enshrined in what was dubbed the "Bike Bill."

Achieving that vision to provide safe routes demands increased investment, the Oregon Department of Transportation calculates it would take over 150 years to complete Oregon's Bike/Ped Master plans at current funding levels.

Now is the time to pass the Safe Routes for All act (SB 395) and make good on our promises and achieve our vision for safer streets for all.

While expanding some bike routes and adding more separated bike lanes have been beneficial for the safety of multimodal transportation choices, it's not enough. Street improvements, such as resurfacing and pothole repair, are also necessary to provide for the safety of such routes and encourage more people to make healthy transportation choices. For over 17 years my neighborhood has been waiting for the funds for the city to build sidewalks and fix unimproved roadways. Each year the situation gets worse. This bill would finally provide that much needed help to fix our unsafe streets.

SB 395 will provide:

- Increased share of state highway funds invested in walking and biking from 1% to 5%
- Expanding the requirement for investments in walking and biking to include road resurfacing projects
- Exempt small projects where costs of walking and biking improvements would exceed 20% of the total project
- Ensure transparency through an annual report on the use of funds

Safe Routes for All will have clear benefits:

- Increased safety for those walking and rolling
- Equitable access to safe ways to walk and roll, including for BIPOC Communities, older adults, and students
- Economic boost to our state and local economies
- Reduced traffic congestion and carbon emissions
- Greater connectivity to Oregon's beautiful natural spaces

Please vote YES on SB 395, and let's build Safe Routes for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Lisa Gorlin