

I am excited to see this bill move forward. While Oregon was in the forefront of the active transportation movement, it has been 50 years since the passage of the original "Bike Bill". Much has changed in our state over the years, yet the percentage of funds dedicated to bicycle and pedestrian facilities has not. It is time to take the next step.

This bill will greatly increase the health and safety of residents throughout the state, whether they are walking to the store, traveling to school, visiting neighbors, or just getting out to enjoy life. We now know that many trips are quite short and should therefore logically be simple to make by bicycle or on foot. But in far too many cases, the streets do not provide safe, comfortable facilities for getting around other than by motor vehicle. This is harmful for youth who need to explore and get exercise, as well as adults and older folks who need the exercise to stay healthy.

But there is more to consider. Most of us use motor vehicles as a practical matter to get around, however the heavy reliance on facilities focused on motor vehicles is detrimental to the other forms of transportation. This causes harm to more than just the health of the residents of our communities. It also creates communities where neighbors do not know their neighbors. Rather than being out on foot or by bicycle enjoying their neighborhood and conversing with neighbors, they travel from work or shopping without interacting along the way. Further, streets so heavily focused on motor vehicle travel not attractive, nor are they particularly economically active and vital.

It is time to move forward for a better Oregon. Please pass this important bill.

Thank you for your consideration.