

**Testimony to the Joint Committee on Transportation  
on Senate Bill 395**

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Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Oregon Environmental Council supports SB 395.

This bill would shift more spending into the kinds of transportation investments – biking and walking – that our communities need to thrive. When people can walk and bike safely and conveniently, that translates to less driving and more access to opportunity for more people. When people walk and bike, our whole state benefits from better air quality, less climate pollution, less risk of injury and death on our roadways, more money spent at local businesses, and less traffic congestion.

Oregon Environmental Council helped pass the first Bike Bill in 1971. We were proud to support biking and walking across the state, and hopeful that the bill would make sure that biking and walking were included in most transportation investments. The legislation has not had the effect we hoped for, and we also now know how much more investment is needed. Fifty years later, we're long overdue for an update to this legislation.

Our state goals around climate, equity, and economic growth require us to invest differently. The structures of the 1960s and 1970s no longer serve us well. We cannot keep investing as if everybody can and should get around in private vehicles. Not only does this approach create enormous costs on our communities and create barriers to access for many people, it also will demand an ever-increasing amount of money and space – more than we have to spare. It's long past time for us to invest in moving people and goods in the most space-efficient, health, cost-effective and sustainable ways. This bill is a step in the right direction; let's keep moving.