

Betsy Reese  
Southeast Portland

March 3, 2021

To Members of The Oregon State Legislature and the Joint Committee on Transportation,

Please vote yes on Senate Bill 395 to increase required expenditure on footpaths and bicycle trails from one percent to five percent of amounts received from the State Highway Fund.

I turn 65 this year and my bicycle is my main form of transportation, recreation, and exercise. As I've grown older, my riding style and experience of comfort and safety have changed from fast and fearless to a slower pace on lower-motor-vehicle-traffic routes and multi-use paths.

I want to grow old riding my bike.

I expect to give up my car keys long before I give up my bicycle. A three-wheeler for more stability and a little electric assist may be in my future down the road. Finding ways for seniors to be willing to give up driving, and still be and feel independent, requires viable accessible alternatives to owning and driving a car. Passage of this bill would be an important part of providing that.

My bike is my mobility device. Having wrestled the chronic-degenerative-arthritis bear since I was 30 years old, (sometimes he's had me down, and sometimes I have him down), my bicycle has allowed me to still participate and transport myself in situations and at times when walking is more difficult. Going by bike allows me to still get critically-needed exercise, join in an outdoor gathering or activity, and to roll up to the door of my destination instead of needing to walk through a parking lot or garage.

In 1999 our son at age 10 participated in the first prototype of what would become Safe Routes to School in Portland. It's time for Safe Routes to Senior Centers now too.

Thank you!  
Betsy Reese

