



American Planning Association
Oregon Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

March 4, 2021

Joint Committee On Transportation
Senator Lee Beyer, Co-Chair
Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair
Senator Brian Boquist, Co-Vice Chair
Representative Ron Noble, Co-Vice Chair
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association in Support of
Senate Bill 395 with Amendments

Dear Co-Chairs Beyer and McLain, Co-Vice Chairs Boquist and Noble, and Members of the
Committee:

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) supports the passage of SB 395 with two amendments. OAPA is an independent, statewide, not-for-profit educational organization of more than 800 planners from across the state who work for cities, counties, special districts, state agencies, tribes, community-based organizations, universities, and private firms. We provide leadership in the development of vital communities by advocating excellence in community planning, promoting education and resident empowerment, and providing the tools and support necessary to meet the challenges of growth and change. OAPA supports sustainable communities and works to enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by helping to create and stabilize places that are equitable, healthy, and resilient and provide ongoing economic, environmental, and social benefits.

SB 395 accomplishes two objectives that are valuable to Oregon communities. First, it advances transportation goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by increasing funding dedicated to bicycle and pedestrian elements of transportation projects while clarifying definitional issues. Specifically, SB 395 increases the proportion of State Highway Funding required to be used for bicycle and pedestrian elements in transportation projects from 1% of total spending to 5%. While this does not necessarily create new funding sources for bicycle and pedestrian improvements, it does direct how existing transportation funding shall be used. We would, however, suggest amending Section 1 of the bill to remove the addition of resurfacing as a trigger for requiring provision of bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Since the bill does not create new funding sources, this added requirement could result in an inability to maintain roadways pending creation of new funding sources.

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Oregon Chapter President

Aaron Ray, AICP



Secondly, the bill advances community involvement in transportation decision making. SB 395 does this by clarifying the role and composition of the Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (OBPAC). By increasing the number of members from eight to eleven and increasing the statutory scope of OBPAC, SB 395 improves the role of the public in advising statewide transportation policy makers.

OAPA strongly recommends amending Section 2 to better advance racial equity in bicycle and pedestrian transportation policy. This could be accomplished by explicitly identifying at least one OBPAC member role for historically and currently underserved communities, in alignment with Governor’s Executive Order 17-11 in Equity.

OAPA’s Board adopted Legislative Priorities include: “Confront climate change” and “Advance racial equity.” As such, OAPA supports:

- Legislation and other measures that further efforts to: reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, advance adaptation by and resiliency of communities, and increase carbon sequestration.
- Prioritizing planning and assistance for Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) community members and other vulnerable communities, and centering their voices when developing policy.
- Policies that increase access to resources and opportunity, build community development, and otherwise empower BIPOC communities
- Changes to public engagement processes and Statewide Planning Goal 1 (citizen involvement) to explicitly advance anti-racism and elevate the voices of BIPOC and other traditionally-underrepresented communities.

OAPA believes SB 395 - with the recommended amendments - advances both GHG reduction and BIPOC and vulnerable community involvement goals Oregonians care most about. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony on SB 395. OAPA recommends the Committee vote the bill out with amendments with a Do Pass recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Ray'.

Aaron Ray, AICP, President
Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Eunice Kim'.

Eunice Kim, AICP, Chair
Legislative and Policy Affairs Committee