

Chairs Beyer and McClain, and Members of the Committee:

The Friends of the Yamhelas Westsider Trail offers its vigorous support for Senate Bill 395.

It is indeed the time to develop more safe walking and biking corridors throughout the state. More people than ever are riding or walking, and currently our roads give these people little sense of safety from collisions with vehicles.

The Friends promotes increased development of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure to improve safety, connect our communities, improve transportation equity and enhance our local economies.

In our local city of McMinnville, bike pathways start and end abruptly, surfaces do not match up, riding distances from vehicles are minimal, and so on.

A city this size can be a likely place to offer residents the opportunity to bike and walk safely throughout the city. Instead, the lack of continuity among biking and walking corridors makes the experience a bit scary.

Our county roads and state highways lack safe shoulders. There is no safe route for pedestrians and bicyclists between many of Yamhill County's communities. If Senate Bill 395 creates safer corridors for biking and walking, there will be other rewards including reduced congestion and better connectedness to Oregon's natural areas.

Senate Bill 395 deserves your support.

Sincerely,

Steve Harloff
Board Member
Friends of the Yamhelas Westsider Trail