

On SB 395. I strongly support investing a full 5% of state highway funds for bicycling and walking; the present 1% is inadequate. This is a win win win proposal. It will facilitate safe, healthy, low carbon transportation, and enable people of all ages and a wide range of abilities to develop new habits that can last a lifetime. I speak from experience. Because I began bicycling for longer distances at age 65, now, at age 83, I bicycle about 200 miles a month for errands, recreation, and exercise. With an e-bike (I especially appreciate my Bike Friday, made in Eugene) and a couple of panniers, I can carry groceries in hilly south Salem, easily get around in even hillier West Salem, and rarely use the car. When I might have been stranded in West Salem with a flat, I used the bus to get to a bike shop. Investing in helmet, good lights, and rain gear leaves me feeling safe and comfortable in almost any weather. Newer cyclists and walkers are understandably intimidated by traffic and unsafe conditions, but improved infrastructure will attract many more to walking and biking. It's almost always fun, and we will all benefit.