

Dear Co-Chairs Beyer and McLain and Members of the Committee,

I am writing with strong support for SB295 to increase required spending on footpaths and bicycle trails from 1% to 5% of amounts received from the State Highway Fund.

This piece of legislation is about providing for all of our people and bringing our spending of public funds into closer alignment with the future that we are planning for in our transportation and climate plans and our equity commitments.

Our state transportation system is not friendly at best, and lethal at worst, to those trying to get someone without a vehicle. Without greater spending on active transportation we will never reach the goals set out in state and local safety, climate and transportation plans and we will continue to see people killed on state facilities - including those who have no choice but to ride and walk.

In order to serve those who are too old or young to drive, those who can't afford to drive, and those who cannot drive because of a disability or another reason, we must provide safe facilities for accessing destinations by other modes.

Moreover, electrification alone will not solve our transportation greenhouse gas emission problems. We must make modes other than single occupancy vehicles an attractive, safe and more appealing choice than driving in order to bring up the percentage of trips made by active modes.

Finally, investing in active modes to the point where walking and rolling is more appealing than driving will contribute to relieving economy-damaging congestion on our roads.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sarah Mazze