

Dear Committee,

My name is Lucy, and I am writing as someone who does not drive, but instead mostly travels by bike. Every time I leave my house to go to the store, an appointment, to see a friend, I wonder if this will be the day that a car kills me. I have been hit by two cars in the last 10 years, and each has left lifetime physical damage. But I keep biking because I do not want to contribute to carbon emissions, and I do not think anyone should have to own a car.

When I am out on the streets, it is clear to me how little drivers and urban planners care about bikes. Whether it is the constant speeding, intimidation, or red light running of cars, or the constant gravel, debris, trashcans, signs, etc. put in the bike line...it is clear that we are an afterthought, seen as not a "real" way that anyone would or should travel around the city. Despite the fact that bikes are extremely efficient, create basically no pollution, build exercise into transportation, and don't kill people every single day, it is assumed that cars are the default.

I hope that as you think about the future of Oregon's transportation, you envision a future where driving a car is not seen as inevitable. Is not the given when it comes to how people will travel around a city. There are so many people who cannot drive, and our cities/transportation should be planned with them in mind. Those folks are often elders, low income, BIPOC, or have disabilities. And our current transportation fails them, not to mention failing the next generation that sees the climate cost of our love of cars.

I ask the committee to please support safe, reliable, and affordable transportation options -- walkable neighborhoods, public transportation, and of course, bicycle infrastructure.

Thank you for your time and work,  
Lucy