

June 17, 2024

Joint Committee On Transportation

[JCT.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:JCT.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

900 Court Street NE, Room 453, Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek & Committee Members,

My name is Skyler Archibald and I live in Gearhart, Oregon and work in Seaside as the Executive Director for the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District. I also serve on the Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council (ORTAC) as one of the two Coastal Representatives. I am an avid cyclist, runner, hiker and outdoor enthusiast. I proudly serve as the Rotary Club of Seaside's dedicated Highway Cleanup Coordinator as well.

As you know, our community here on the North Coast relies significantly on the workability of a functioning highway system. The highways provide access to our community for our tourism related economy, transportation for our residents and the backbone for our forest related businesses. As those economies have grown or at least remained consistent, so too has the need for working highways and other potential modes of transportation to be developed and improved.

The North Coast community needs attention and funding to improve the safety of our highway system, particularly in Clatsop County where our highway system serves as the main connector for intra-county travel and supports our local economy. There are many stretches of our local highway that could be improved with funding to improve dangerous intersections and improvements for pedestrians and bicycle travel. Additionally, many of the bridges in our community are not seismically resilient, putting thousands of our residents at risk.

Many of those impacted most in our community by our highway system are those that are often underrepresented and it is crucial that highway systems and improvements improve transportation for lower income or fixed income Oregonians and Clatsop County residents. In our communities and many along the Oregon Coast, lower income housing is often congregated along the highway which amplifies the needs for these improvements.

In Seaside for example, a 2023 project improved a roughly .5 mile stretch on S. Roosevelt. This project added more visible and dedicated space for non-vehicle traffic, two new pedestrian crosswalks, and improved safety. Those revisions have been significant upgrades and have certainly magnified the need for additional improvements to keep residents and guests safe and promote safe routes for non-vehicle traffic.

The 2025 transportation package should commit new statewide revenues to statewide priorities and programs rather than simply metro-area freeway projects. The package should also priorities raising funds for transportation networks that improve safety on existing systems rather than developing new ones and working collaboratively with local cities and counties.



It should continue funding the "Safe Routes to School" and "Oregon Community Paths" programs and strongly consider clean transportation options.

In addition to those priorities the transportation package should not overlook prioritizing trails in future developments and there are plenty of great projects that will promote off-street transportation. I'm a strong supporter of the development of the Salmonberry Trail, improving the Oregon Coast Scenic Bike Route and improving the North Portland Greenway.

Thank you for your consideration and efforts,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Archibald", written in a cursive style.

Skyler Archibald | Executive Director | Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District

1140 Broadway | Seaside, Oregon 97138

503-738-3311 | [sarchibald@sunsetempire.com](mailto:sarchibald@sunsetempire.com) | [sunsetempire.com](http://sunsetempire.com)