

Dear Joint Committee on Transportation:

Please accept this email message as written testimony for the Listening Tour event at Marshfield Highschool in Coos Bay (7-Aug-2024).

My name is Eric Clough. I am a resident of Coos Bay. I have been a life-long bicycle commuter and urban cyclist. I am currently retired from 25 years of public service with the State of Oregon. I am founder and President of Front Street Community Bike Works (FSCBW). FSCBW is an all volunteer non-profit community bike shop that advocates for greater use of bicycles for urban transportation needs. In addition, I am a member of the Coos Bay Parks Commission that is responsible for advising the City on bike/pedestrian facilities.

Communities of the south coast, including North Bend/Coos Bay, are terribly underserved with current bicycle infrastructure. Cyclists in our communities do not have equitable/safe access roads - including state highways. Safe cycling routes are important to promote healthy lifestyles, community engagement and reduction of trips made in automobiles. Kids need safe routes to schools. Adults need safe streets to ride to the grocery store or ride for exercise. Reasons for investment in bicycle friendly roads are many. **Right now the City of Coos Bay has an important and specific bicycle/pedestrian need: pedestrian/cyclist activated crossing signal at Market Street and Highway 101 NB lanes (Bayshore Ave).**

The City of Coos Bay currently sets aside the required minimum of 1% from it's share of state fuel tax revenue for bike/ped facilities. This is not enough to fund even basic bike/ped improvements. The current city Transportation System Plan, historic waterfront development plan and community proposed bike route all call for bike/ped crossing improvement at Market & Bayshore (HWY 101) streets. Oregon Dept. of Transportation needs to provide assistance to the city to improve traffic control at this intersection. This intersection has a difficult right-of-way layout and is unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists. It is an important link between the downtown and historic waterfront heritage area that is undergoing new development.

Investment in transportation infrastructure in rural Oregon is important. Communities of the south coast like Coos Bay/North Bend do not have funding to complete the costly road improvement projects that other, larger cities are able to do. Rural communities, especially those on the coast, are feeling the severe impacts of inflation and need to progress transportation infrastructure to a more sustainable, liveable future. Please help our communities move into the future with bike/ped friendly roads. Specifically, please help the City of Coos Bay complete a bike/ped crossing improvement at Market and Bayshore Streets. The work your committee does is important and has real benefits to local communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

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