

Maria Sipin MUPH MPH CPH LCI
Portland, OR 97210

September 27, 2024

Joint Committee On Transportation
900 Court Street NE, Room 453
Salem, OR, 97301

To the Joint Committee On Transportation:

I testified by phone at the hearing on Wednesday. Here is my full testimony for today.

“My name is Maria Sipin. I live in Portland. I hope you can share my vision for Oregon where those of us who are highly dependent on walking, biking, and riding public transportation have the quality options we need. That means connected bike networks, complete accessible sidewalks to get where we need to go, and frequent transit, which someday soon I hope is fare free. We should be able to achieve fare free transit for children, students, low-income earners, and seniors at a minimum in the near future.

Last week, I experienced the unexpected disruption of getting my bicycle stolen. This was an e-bike I saved money to buy and have gotten so much use out of during the height of the pandemic when no other option was available and reliable for me then. I use my bike for work to get to multiple destinations and events throughout the day. My friends, family and colleagues realized how much I depend on biking everywhere, so they helped me raise money so I could replace it, and this isn't a resource available to everyone who gets their bike stolen. One of the things I hope to elevate in this discussion and every time I talk about biking is the importance of bike infrastructure as well as parking—secure parking—especially for renters and tenants like me who live in buildings that don't prioritize safe and secure bike parking even though we pay rent just like everybody else. We also need safe and secure bike parking and bike valet all over town near popular destinations, schools, and places of work because parking bikes for hours at a time on streets makes them targets of theft which is rampant everywhere. While we can't address the wealth/income inequality gap in this Commission, let's focus on what you can do: Invest in walking, biking, and transit because this creates jobs, promotes health, is good for the local economy, and helps people have reliable and inexpensive options for travel. Validate the experiences of Oregonians of all ages and abilities who already walk, bike, and use transit. Show them that their needs matter in the transportation system. Thank you for listening today, and I hope to elevate this message on behalf of those who can't participate in a process like this one.”

Sincerely / Isang Bagsak,

Maria Sipin