



City of Tigard

Date: February 21, 2023
To: House Committee on Education
From: Hendrik Broekelschen, City of Tigard Safe Routes to School Program
Re: Support for Flexible School Transportation Funding, HB 3014

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Zach Hudson and Boomer Wright, and members of the committee:

My name is Hendrik Broekelschen and I am writing in support of HB 3014.

As the Tigard-Tualatin Safe Routes to School Program Coordinator, I serve the communities of Tigard, Tualatin, and King City by delivering pedestrian and bike education and creating encouragement activities at all schools in the Tigard-Tualatin School District.

Our local Safe Routes to School program has grown notably over the last 2 years, with record-breaking participation in our Spring and Fall *Walk + Roll Challenges* and the recent launch of our first Winter event earlier this month. Increasing numbers of families are choosing active and healthy modes of travel to/from school, which not only improves our young community members' health and independence, but also serves to reduce car traffic and related negative impacts around schools. Passage of HB 3014 will provide school districts the flexibility needed to meet the demand of students and families who want to choose safe, active options to travel to school.

Furthermore, passage of HB 3014 will create an opportunity for our communities to reduce transportation-related carbon emissions by decreasing reliance on diesel buses and single-family car trips. As an alternative, schools can consider funding 'Walking School Buses' and 'Bike Trains' to transform the way families travel to school, all while developing strong communities and active, healthy families.

For these reasons, I urge your support for HB 3014. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Hendrik Broekelschen
City of Tigard Safe Routes to School Program Coordinator