

April 6, 2023

Joint Committee on Transportation
900 Court St. NE - HR, F
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: HB 3113 - Appropriating money from the General Fund to ODOT to use for Great Streets program

Co-Chair's Gorsek and McLain, Co-Vice Chair's Boquist and Boshart Davis, and members of the committee:

Multnomah County supports HB 3113, which would appropriate money from the General Fund to the Department of Transportation for improving safety and increasing access to walking, biking, and transit on state highways that serve as community main streets. Multnomah County places great value on the safety of roadways, and prioritizes increasing access to multimodal transportation.

Within the Portland Metro Region, the majority of serious crashes and fatalities occur on arterial roadways. These roads, despite serving as community main streets, host high traffic volumes, high speeds, are difficult to cross for both pedestrians and bicyclists, and as a result accounted for 77% of fatal and incapacitating pedestrian crashes between 2010-2015.¹ Through providing a pathway for funding to increase pedestrian, bicycle, and transit access along these roadways, HB 3113 can help make substantial improvements to mobility and traffic safety for our transportation systems' most vulnerable users while enhancing the role that these roads play as community main streets.

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is responsible for many of the arterial roadways in the region and the state. Increasing the funding available for the state Department of Transportation to make improvements such as adding sidewalks, increasing lighting, planting trees, and incorporating traffic calming measures would have a lasting positive impact on communities across cities and counties.

Sincerely,

Lee Girard

Interim Director, Department of Community Services

¹ Oregon Metro. (2018). *Metro State of Safety Report*.

<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/sites/default/files/2018/05/25/2018-Metro-State-of-Safety-Report-05252018.pdf>