

Submitter: Paul Runge

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure: HB3113

My name is Paul Runge and I'm writing to support this bill. I live near two ODOT Orphan Highways: SE Powell Blvd and SE 82nd Ave. I walk, bike, take transit, and drive to get around.

The most dangerous thing I do every day is use those two ODOT facilities. When I drive on them, I see people speeding at levels that match the road's outdated highway design but that are totally inappropriate given the roads' neighborhood context. When I walk on those facilities, I dodge traffic, have to go out of my way to find crosswalks, and have near misses with cars, especially after dark. I regularly ask myself when I cross Powell or 82nd at night: "What would happen if I tripped?" By and large, people do not stop for pedestrians at intersections, even those with crosswalks. By and large, people speed in these long overbuilt straightaways. And I think, by and large, people who trip risk simply getting run over.

What will happen to my future children? How will I navigate protecting their safety while having such a deadly force right outside my door in two directions?

It's time we fix these streets: build them to move slower, to offer more visibility, to protect pedestrians and bikes. Fund the Great Streets program and help us build safer, slower, multimodal facilities throughout the state.

Thank you,
Paul Runge
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