

**Date:** April 06 2023

**To:** Co-Chair Rep. Susan McLain  
Co-Chair Sen. Chris Gorsek  
Interim Co-Chair Sen. Lew Frederick  
Vice Chair Sen. Brian Boquist  
Vice Chair Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis

**Re:** Requesting hearings and work sessions on legislation in the Joint Committee on Transportation

Dear Member of the Joint Committee,

Thank you for discussing this important legislation and for reviewing my written testimony. My name is Ariadna, she/her/ella pronouns and I'm the Getting There Together Coalition Manager. The Getting There Together Coalition, or GTT, was formed in 2017 as a multicultural, multigenerational coalition that centers and uplifts the voices and needs of people most impacted by transportation inequities through education, advocacy, access, and leadership. We envision a world where Black, Indigenous, people of color, youth, people with disabilities, older adults, and low-income communities have meaningful participation in the creation of an accessible, affordable, equitable, and climate-friendly transportation system.

Our current transportation system is broken and needs immediate attention. It costs the quality of life of Oregon residents. Oregon ranks 10th highest in the country for traffic fatalities [in the last half of 2022]. This is an urgent issue that requires immediate action. GTT supports HB 3113 because the Great Streets Program can help address this problem by prioritizing the safety of all road users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers.

GTT was founded in response to Metro's 2020 Transportation Measure. This process was a community-driven planning process that focused on many of the most important corridors that would be eligible for funding in the Great Streets Program. While it is unfortunate that the measure did not pass, its work was foundational in identifying nearly \$7 billion dollars of investments, mainly across orphan highways, and put forward a vision that moved people first. It is critical to GTT that these investments not get left on the table and that the state owns its lack of investment in once great streets. This down payment towards these needs signals a continuation of the vision put forward in the Get Moving 2020 Bond Measure and support for the immense efforts that Metro and the Portland Metro community put towards planning and funding investments in our own neighborhoods.

The Coalition wants to emphasize that marginalized communities are disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis, as they frequently endure safety risks (exposed to traffic accidents at higher percentages) and have lower rates of access to private vehicles. GTT is writing in support of HB 3113 as we are concerned about the disproportionate impact of

transportation inequities on BIPOC and low-income Oregonians. As we've seen in the past year, pedestrian fatalities in Oregon have increased by 61% and these conditions disproportionately affect these communities. With an additional \$100M in funding, we can make a real impact on reducing these disparities.

By supporting HB 3113, we are not only improving safety, but also improving access to transportation for underserved communities. Nearly 27% of Oregonians do not have a driver's license and this program can help reduce transportation costs for low-income households and provide more transportation options for those who may not own a car. This can help reduce transportation-related barriers to education, employment, and other opportunities while simultaneously improving air quality and safety in towns across the state.

GTT believes it's important that community and elected leaders are critically aware that the over-prioritization of cars goes hand-in-hand with the underfunding and disinvestments that disproportionately harm the safety of transportation in disadvantaged communities. GTT supports HB 3113 as The Great Streets program has many benefits, including improving safety, revitalizing streets, creating more walkable and bikeable communities, promoting public health, combating climate change, and promoting equity.

In conclusion, GTT enthusiastically endorses this bill, which would invest an additional \$100 million in ODOT's Great Streets program. Great Streets is an innovative program, crucial to creating a transportation system for all people in Oregon that is easy to use, fair, and sustainable. We urge the committee to pass this bill and take an important step toward making Oregon's populations more secure and equitable by upgrading our orphan highways. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ariadna Falcon Gonzalez  
Coalition Manager  
Getting There Together Coalition