

NATIONAL COAST TRAIL ASSOCIATION

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Keeping The Coast For Everyone!
through advocacy, education and action
for recreational trails, public access and coastal preservation

April 6th, 2023

Joint Committee on Transportation

Capitol Building, Salem, Oregon

Re: **Testimony, HB 3113, appropriate moneys for "Great Streets"**

Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek, Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Coast Trail has been the focus of our efforts and input, especially during the development of the Oregon Coast Trail Action Plan by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department over the last few years. As the plan is in the process of being finalized, our non-profit organization is already considering our involvement towards its implementation, and the "Great Streets" program has the potential to play its role.

The completion of the trail, with it's current gaps, is the purpose of the Action Plan. And many of these gaps essentially occur along Highway 101. Therefore, there are segments that could potentially qualify for funding from the **"Great Streets" program.**

When a trail -- the Oregon Coast Trail -- is located along a "main street," it NEEDS to be a place where hikers WANT to be . . . and in so doing is yet another way in making it a quality recreational experience, and the kind of "world-class" trail that has been envisioned by others, too. And so this would not only serve visitors, but also community residents in enhancing their quality of life.

Further, where hikers want to be, where visitors want to be, there they will spend money, and also enhance the economic viability of communities along the Oregon Coast.

Finally, given distracted driving, combined with speeding, what the **"Great Streets"** program could offer, is also consistent with one of the key goals of the Oregon Coast Trail Action Plan, addressing safety issues. It could literally save someone's life.

Therefore, given the potential for economic, quality of life and safety benefits the "Great Streets" program could offer, along with projects that could not only complete gaps, but also enhance existing sections of the Oregon Coast Trail, **we support HB 3113.**

With Respect and Gratitude,



Al LePage, Executive Director

cc: Kris Strickler, Director, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)
Robin Wilcox, Great Streets Program Manager, ODOT
Board of Directors, National Coast Trail Association



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