

Submitter: Jacob Apenes  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

Hello Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Jacob Apenes. I am 24 years old, a lifelong resident of Portland, and a constituent of Representative Sanchez and Senator Frederick. Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony.

The ODOT Great Streets program was developed to address safety concerns along our major state highways. Many highways, such as US 101 (Pacific Coast Byway) and OR 99E (McLoughlin Boulevard), exist as a central arterial to many Oregon cities. These central arterials, with numerous businesses and pedestrians, create automobile-induced injuries and fatalities at a disproportionate rate compared to all other road types. Fixing these roads to be safe for pedestrians and prevent vehicle collisions is necessary. The ODOT Great Streets program works to fix this problem, but it needs more funding. HB 3113 would give an additional \$100 million to the Great Streets program. Whether this \$100 million comes from the highway trust fund or discretionary spending is up to the Joint Committee, but the state needs to act now to prevent future deaths.

Additionally, please ensure that any funding given to the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program (IBRP) is used to build a right-sized bridge. Expanding the infrastructure footprint of I-5 in North Portland and Clark County will create a financial debt and burden that my generation and future generations will be unable to pay for. An expanded interstate cannot be maintained either, and the air pollution and environmental harm caused by hundreds of thousands of extra vehicle miles travelled is unjust to the communities living in North Portland.

Thank you,  
Jacob