

Submitter: Nick Christensen  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure: SB1556

Members of the committee -

I write today as a private citizen who lives in the Portland area but loves to visit the coast – but doesn't do so as much as I'd like because of the traffic and safety hazards associated with commuting between the valley and US 101.

The connections between our state's rural communities and urban highway corridor continue to be woefully insufficient. More importantly, they are unsafe. Dozens of Oregonians have lost their lives or suffered serious, life-altering injuries on the stretch of U.S. 30 between Astoria and Rainier. These were people coming back from a weekend at the coast, going to or from work, or to a medical appointment.

If Oregon is serious about eliminating traffic deaths, we need to accept that some of our connections between large rural communities like Astoria, and important regional corridors like I-5 in Longview, are not serving the public as well as they did when they were built more than 100 years ago. ODOT's study of this work will help identify solutions to improve safety and access, supporting all of Oregon's economy. Good bill, should pass.

Best,

Nick Christensen