

Submitter: Beth Young  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure: SB1563

I support SB 1563 regarding allocating funds for a survey of Hwy 101 safety.

I am co-chair of the Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, a Newport resident, a planner and the staff liaison to the City of Newport Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. I am, however writing on my on behalf only. In Newport bicyclists are forced to ride on the sidewalk, and the police reports show that many crashes occur on our Hwy 101 corridor. There are likely many undocumented crashes and scary near-misses as well. Because Hwy 101 is dangerous and unpleasant for pedestrians and bicyclists, many people simply do not ride or walk in Newport--and don't allow their children to do so either. The quality of life in Newport is greatly reduced because of the Hwy 101 corridor.

Why now? Although, nationally, traffic deaths of people using motor vehicles are down, pedestrian and bicycle deaths are alarmingly high--and rising. Bike/ped safety should be a major consideration in this study.