

Submitter: Kim McCarrel
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB4067

I am submitting comments on behalf of Oregon Equestrian Trails, an all-volunteer nonprofit that builds and maintains trails and advocates for recreational equestrian access to public lands.

We think the proposed Task Force is a great idea. However, even with the current Amendment 8, it doesn't include enough representation from the non-motorized recreation community.

The single biggest cause of user conflicts on trails and rights of way is the speed differential between users. Hikers and equestrians travel about 3 miles per hour, while e-bikes, one-wheels, and other micro-mobility devices are routinely used at speeds four to five times that fast. The task force needs to include people from the hiking and equestrian communities who are most at risk in an encounter with a fast-moving micro-mobility device.

Imagine you are walking along a park path with your young child. Suddenly, a one-wheel careens down the path, hurtling toward you at 15 mph. Can that one-wheel rider stop before he collides with your child?

Or you are riding a horse along a forest trail when an e-bike rounds a corner and plummets downhill toward you. There's no way he can stop in time. Your frightened horse whirls and scrambles to get out of the way, dumping you in a pile of rocks beside the trail.

Before it can make its recommendations, the task force will need to understand the very real risks associated with fast-moving devices sharing a path or right of way with slower-moving hikers and equestrians. The best way for the task force to gain these insights is to include people who have experienced these kinds of encounters.

Please amend the bill to make the task force more balanced by including more representatives of non-motorized recreation.

Thank you for considering our views.

Kim McCarrel
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Oregon Equestrian Trails

