

Submitter: Megan Ramey  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation  
Funding  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: LC 2

My name is Megan Ramey and I'm the Safe Routes to School Manager for Hood River County School District and I'm a board member of Hood River County Transportation District.

It doesn't take much to effect the life of a child. We have had incredible success with <\$15,000 infrastructure investments that make it safer for children to walk and roll to school. In a recent Atlantic article called, "What Kids told us about how to get them off their phones" researchers asked children and their #1 response was that they wanted independence to play in their neighborhoods. Parents tell me all the time, "thank you for instilling confidence and freedom in my child".

This is why I was sad and frustrated that after a year of public engagement through the roadshows, you failed to pass the bill in June. I am exhausted with this process but I also can't fail to be the voice of children and their families so their needs are not lost in the politics.

I urge you to:

- pass this band-aid bill
- ask Governor Kotek or Gubernatorial candidates for a transportation vision for 2027. Safety needs to be our megaproject.
- allow small counties like ours, or less than 200,000, to increase our vehicle registration fee so we can create a more sustainable funding solution that is immune from federal and state politics.

Gen-A, aka the Anxious Generation, needs what their grandparents had: neighborhoods safe for walking and biking to get to school or simply, to find play.