

Submitter: Nicole Perry

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation  
Funding

Measure, Appointment or  
Topic: LC 2

Dear Co-Chairs Wagner and Fahey and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nicole Perry and I live in Milwaukie. I am the Safe Routes to School Coordinator for Clackamas County. I am writing in to testify as neutral on LC 2.

Your work on this legislation that will help maintain Oregon's roads and ability to respond to crashes is appreciated and I applaud the increase in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund to avoid job cuts and make sure transit services continue to be available to Oregonians.

The inclusion of the 50/30/20 split will help ensure residents in all communities and all levels of government involved in transportation have the resources to maintain safety and stability for their respective systems.

However, I cannot support a package that has no new funding for Great Streets, Safe Routes to School or Oregon Community Paths. These are smart, high-return investments. I have seen the positive impacts of completed projects (small, medium, and large) that have made it easier for kids in Clackamas County to walk and roll to school, but the continued need is vast.

It is Back to School time and families are eager to connect with their communities. A simple way to do this is by walking and rolling to school, yet barriers like lack of safe pathways/sidewalks/crosswalks and network gaps prevent them from doing so. We must work to ensure every neighborhood has safe streets for everyone, including those who can't or don't drive or simply want to stay out of the school car drop off and pick up lines. I talk with families often that want to actively get to and from school, but don't because they don't feel safe.

We cannot continue to choose short-term budget band-aids that shift the burden of long-term costs to Oregon's working families and local governments. We cannot and will not wait to align spending with values, to treat safety as non-negotiable, and to build back public trust through clear accountability and real performance metrics. Oregonians like me are demanding a safety investment strategy for their streets.

Thank you for your time and attention to these urgent needs,

Nicole Perry