

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

Dear Co-Chairs Fahey and Wagner, Vice Chairs Drazen and Bonham, and members of the committee,

My name is Aaron, and I live in Portland. In my spare time, I volunteer to support people who want to ride bicycles for transportation—not just in Portland, but across the state, including rural Oregon. I know that bicycling isn't the right choice for every trip or for every person. But like walking, it should be a basic option available to anyone: for a commute, a short errand, or even just for fun.

When I testified at the Joint Committee on Transportation Roadshow more than a year ago, I joined many others in holding up neon green signs with one word: BIKE. Our message was simple: bicycling deserves to be recognized as a real and affordable transportation option—one worthy of state investment, especially in challenging times.

Yet the bill before you—the culmination of all that statewide outreach—does not mention bicycling at all. Not once.

You might think this is an oversight, given that Oregonians have been biking for transportation for more than a century. But the bill also leaves out walking—another basic, universal form of transportation. Every trip involves walking at some point, whether to and from a car, a bus, a train, or a bicycle.

It is deeply concerning that a “critical” transportation funding package would omit any mention of walking or biking. Not one word.

Whatever the outcome of this bill, the work still lies ahead: to begin a sober and honest assessment of transportation in Oregon—not just funding workers, but creating a plan that reduces barriers and expands real options for people to get around. That includes an attractive, affordable option inexplicably ignored in this bill: a BIKE.