

March 17, 2025

Joint Committee on Transportation Oregon State Legislature 900 Court St NE Salem, OR 97301



Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek, Members of the Committee:

On behalf of The Street Trust, I am writing to express strong support for HB 3626, 'E-RIDES,' a critical step toward ensuring that Oregon's multimodal transportation system is safe, accessible, and inclusive for all road users. Our organization represents all street users regardless of mode, but especially those who can't or don't drive. We work to break political gridlock and win policy and investments that save lives, reduce barriers, and expand mobility and opportunities to the people and neighborhoods our current system neglects.

Micromobility, including e-bikes and e-scooters, is more than just a mode of transportation. For many Oregonians, it is a pathway to opportunity, providing a low-cost, sustainable, and flexible way to get to work, school, healthcare, and essential services. The Street Trust has been at the vanguard of accessible micromobility in Oregon launching the <u>BIKETOWN for All Ambassador Program</u>, an e-bike lending library at our Lloyd Center HUB, and the <u>Ride2Own</u> e-bike ownership pilot program. Our team also administers a variety of bike, micromobility, and driver safety education training courses.

Our priorities for HB 3626 have been to advance equity, access, and community safety. As a leading organization advocating for walking, biking, and public transit, we know that historically marginalized communities including people of color, low-income residents, youth, and people with disabilities, have the fewest travel options and face the greatest barriers to getting where they need to go safely, quickly, and cheaply. E-bikes and micromobility offers a powerful solution, but only if Oregon adopts policies that protect and expand access rather than restrict it.

HB 3626 helps ensure that all Oregonians, regardless of income or background, can safely and confidently choose micromobility as a transportation option. It does this by:

- Clarifying and streamlining regulations so that riders, local governments, and law enforcement have clear and enforceable rules that prioritize safety and accessibility.
- Providing clear guidance for helmet usage and battery safety.
- Investing in education so that all road users, whether biking, walking, or driving, understand how to share the road safely and respectfully.

Micromobility is already transforming the way Oregonians move, offering a cost-effective, climate-friendly alternative to driving. Without smart policies and safe infrastructure, too many people, especially those in historically underserved communities, will be left out. HB 3626 is a necessary step toward making sure everyone, not just those who can afford it, benefits from the micromobility revolution.

We urge you to pass HB 3626 with \$250,000 in funding for safety education to help us meet our Vision Zero goals and so that Oregon remains a leader in equitable, inclusive, and people-centered transportation policy and investments.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Sarah lannarone

Executive Director, The Street Trust