

Submitter: Connie Soper

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

June 10, 2025

Dear Chairs Gorsek and McLain and Member of the Committee:

My name is Connie Soper, and I live in Portland. I'm testifying today to urge you to amend HB 2025 to increase investment in Oregon Community Paths via the Multimodal Active Transportation Fund.

Oregon Community Paths funds grants for project development, construction, reconstruction, major resurfacing or other improvements of multi-use paths that improve access and safety for people walking and bicycling. This program is used to fund the off-street portions of Safe Routes to School projects as well as access to parks, transit centers, and alternatives to high-speed roadways. It is especially critical in rural communities, where off-street paths are frequently the only alternative to walking, running, or biking on the state highway system.

As an active hiker and walker, I appreciate safe walking paths both within urban areas, as well as more rural or suburban communities where there may not be adequate access to sidewalks. Hiking and walking paths provide valuable, easy, and low-impact access to recreation, which in turn helps enhance mental and physical health benefits.

The program was oversubscribed by more than 4:1 in its first two funding cycles. I urge you to consider a very small portion of the new funding identified in the transportation package be allocated to this program through the Multimodal Active Transportation Fund which exclusively funds the Oregon Community Paths program. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Connie Soper  
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