

Submitter: Eric Lassahn

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

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

\*\*\*Please pass HB 2025 and ensure the safety programs highlighted below are fully funded\*\*\*

My name is Eric Lassahn, and I live in Salem. I'm an administrator at Willamette University, an avid cyclist, and frequent bike commuter. Too often, I find myself riding on decaying roads with traffic flying by just inches to my left. Last week, on Liberty road, just before turning onto Missouri St, I was almost knocked off the road by a sprinter van barreling past. There is no bike lane on that stretch of road and I may have been killed right in front of my wife who was following about 20 yards behind. It's unacceptable that children biking home from school may find themselves on that same unsafe stretch of road as they return their home in the Candelaria neighborhood.

I'm writing to testify in support of House Bill 2025, particularly the investments in Safe Routes to School and the Great Streets programs.

Our infrastructure is only as strong as our weakest links, and these programs are lifelines: funding safe crossings, sidewalks, lighting, and bikeways that connect people to schools, jobs, transit, and community. Without this funding, too many Oregonians, especially children, seniors, and people with disabilities, are forced to travel dangerous roads every day.

The \$50 million for Safe Routes will save lives (perhaps my life) and ensure that our youth can walk and bike to school safely. The \$250 million for Great Streets will support local main street transformations that improve safety, support local economies, and help communities adapt to climate impacts.

Finally, I want to highlight the importance of completing our active transportation network. On-street investments must be matched with funding for off-street routes as well. Please include support for the Oregon Community Paths program to help fill these critical gaps.

Please pass HB 2025 and ensure these safety programs are fully funded.

Sincerely,

Eric Lassahn