

Submitter: Ernesto Dominguez

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

My name is Ernesto Dominguez, my pronouns are el/he/him/his and I live in Clackamas County. I'm here today to support House Bill 2025, particularly the investments in Safe Routes to School and the Great Streets programs. Thank you for bringing this vital package forward.

As a new e-bike rider, an immigrant, and a Queer man, I've experienced firsthand the transformative power of active transportation. Before receiving an e-bike from The Street Trust's Ride2Own program, I'd barely biked, living in a part of the county that lacks safe off-street connectors to wonderful paths like the Springwater Corridor and the Trolley Trail. Now, with over 800 miles on my ebike, I use my bike each week for transportation, recreation, and mental health and wellness.

This ebike has liberated me to explore the metro area, improving my physical and mental well-being, and reducing stress. But this liberation is often shadowed by the dangerous roads I navigate. While bike clinics built my confidence, safe infrastructure is the true game-changer for equity. Many in my community, especially BIPOC individuals like myself, still feel vulnerable on dangerous streets, facing barriers to safe active transportation.

The proposed \$50 million for Safe Routes to School and \$250 million for the Great Streets Improvement Fund are critical. These are investments in literal lifelines—funding safe crossings, sidewalks, lighting, and bikeways that connect everyone to schools, jobs, and vital transit. These programs will save lives, foster community wellness, and address systemic disparities that disproportionately affect communities of color.

Finally, while I strongly support these on-street safety investments, they often lead nowhere if we don't also fund off-street connections. That is why I urge you to include robust funding to fill these critical gaps, ensuring that off-street routes are fully integrated for transit access, jobs, schools, and recreation.

Please pass HB 2025 and ensure these life-saving, equity-advancing programs are fully funded for all Oregonians.