

Submitter: Brent ONeill

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: Directs the Division of Audits to conduct performance audits of the Department of Transportation.

Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek, and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment,

I strongly support HB 2025 and the proposed Great Streets Fund. Southeast Bend is experiencing rapid growth, with over 7,500 homes in the approval process—including more than 1,000 deed-restricted affordable units. These housing projects cannot move forward efficiently without critical transportation safety improvements to bring current county roads up to city standards and ensure intersection safety.

The transportation safety improvements necessary in this area are all excellent candidates for the Great Streets Fund created by HB 2025. Bringing county roads to city street standards would improve safety, access, and mobility for all users; include the construction of sidewalks, curb ramps, crosswalks, lighting, and bike lanes that would promote complete roadways and reduce both vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions. In their entirety, these transportation safety improvements would support multimodal connectivity and relieve current traffic from South Highway 97 by creating right-sized roadways that can safely accommodate the traffic volume.

State investment will ensure these roads are built to modern standards—promoting safe, efficient mobility and supporting Governor Kotek's housing production goals.

Thank you for your leadership and for prioritizing communities like Southeast Bend.