

Submitter: Ellen Hamingson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4007

As a car-free Portlander who frequently travels as a bicyclist or pedestrian, I am heartened by the possibility of legislation that will result in safer streets for all. We need clear standards that will guide where and how we do and do not want to have e-bikes, so-called micromobility devices, and scooters in close proximity to those of us on foot or on bicycles. I look forward to seeing stricter precautions (including helmets) for young riders. The idea that devices could fall into e-bike classification yet able to travel 30 mph is frightening to me, especially because I prefer to use neighborhood greenways where I can expect slower-moving vehicles.

I also support the regulations that will prohibit risky use of untested batteries that are more likely to cause fires. Enforceable and enforced certification will aid that element of safety.

I moved to Oregon in part because I expected that in Portland I could live car-free and still be mobile, using public transit, my bicycle, and my feet. Without assurance that I can do so safely, I am much less likely to be out and about spending money in our local economy and staying involved in my community. The common-sense requirements of HB 4007 would increase my ability to stay mobile, stay alive and healthy, and stay here in Portland.