

**Rep. Terry Beyer, Chair
House Committee on Transportation
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301**

**Sen. Rick Metsger, Chair
Senate Committee on Business and
Transportation
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301**

Dear Rep. Beyer and Sen. Metsger,

I am writing to urge you to support House Bill 2902 and Senate Bill 635, two identical bills that would create a new fund to support investments in bicycle and pedestrian trails statewide. Please also consider including the substance of HB 2902 and SB 635 in the comprehensive transportation package (HB 2120, the “Jobs and Transportation Act”) that is currently under consideration by the Legislature.

Dedicated non-motorized transportation facilities - trails, paths, bike highways, and the like - create a safe, positive experience that can move people efficiently and increase the number of people choosing to walk or ride. Providing options for active transportation can help to address a range of problems, from obesity to congestion to climate change.

[Insert information here about your particular reason for supporting investment in trails, if appropriate]

These investments also support economic development in many ways. They create jobs in construction and maintenance. They provide a healthy and non-polluting way to link people to work, school, and shopping. They reduce the amount of money spent on the operation of motor vehicles, most of which ultimately leaves the state. Moreover, Oregon is home to a growing “bicycle industrial complex” and markets itself as a tourist destination for bicycling enthusiasts from around the nation and the world.

[Insert information here on a specific trail you care about, if appropriate]

Yet because trails, by definition, are outside the road right-of-way, they are not eligible for road-related revenues and currently have no logical source of funding. That’s where HB 2902 and SB 635 come in. Modeled on the successful “ConnectOregon” multimodal funding program, these bills would dedicate lottery dollars to a “non-motorized vehicle transportation fund” that would award grants and loans for investments in trails on a competitive statewide basis, with local match to ensure that only projects with strong local support are funded.

Public demand for healthy, non-polluting transportation alternatives is growing rapidly. HB 2902 and SB 635 would provide a foundation for cost-effective investments in active transportation that will pay dividends in economic development, public health, and community livability far into the future.

Sincerely,