



PROTECTING YOUR  
RIGHT TO ROAM

**June 13, 2016**

**Oregon Walks: Testimony to Joint Interim Committee On  
Transportation Preservation and Modernization**

Oregon Walks is the statewide pedestrian advocacy organization working to making walking a safe, convenient, and accessible transportation option for every community in the state of Oregon. Improving conditions for walking in communities small and large is a remarkably cost-efficient investment that helps address a variety of statewide goals; including improved public health, cleaner air, climate resiliency, local economic development, mitigation of congestion, urban affordability, an aging demographic, and quality of life. Our chronic underinvestment in basic facilities for walking (and complementary investments in biking, transit and paratransit) has consequences, ranging from our unacceptably high rate of traffic fatalities, vast disparities in the health and livability of neighborhoods, and increased isolation for our aging communities.

As a member of Transportation for Oregon's Future, a coalition of transportation, environmental, health & equity partners, we are testifying today to support the shared policy goals of a robustly multimodal package, investments that benefit and do not harm vulnerable communities, and a robust, transparent process that improves health outcomes, safety, and livability for every Oregonian. It's imperative that this package fully reflects the needs of residents from Ashland to Astoria, Portland to Pendleton - ensuring that children have a safe route to school, that grandparents can to walk to their neighborhood store, and every community has multiple transportation options that allow them access to jobs, services, and recreation.



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Transportation infrastructure represents a significant, integral investment in the fabric of our communities, and we heartily encourage legislators from across the state to support investments in connected, accessible, and walkable communities. This transportation package represents a profound opportunity for the legislature to make a firm, uncompromising investment in the health and well-being of Oregon's everyday Main Streets, and we look forward to an ongoing conversation in the months ahead with Democrats and Republicans alike about the necessity of investing in walkable communities across the state.

Tremendous thanks for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Noel Mickelberry".

Noel Mickelberry  
Executive Director, Oregon Walks

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron Brown".

Aaron Brown  
Board President, Oregon Walks