

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization,

I am writing to you as a mom and a public servant who is concerned about the future we are building for our children.

In light of President Trump's decision to pull the federal government out of the Paris climate deal, it is more important than ever that our actions at the local level do not do further harm to our environment. If we want to make good on Oregon's promise to lead the fight against climate change, one of the most important things we can do is cut carbon emissions by prioritizing active transportation.

We have an opportunity right now with our Transportation Package to do just that. While I am pleased to see that bus services will be expanded, I am very disappointed that Safe Routes to Schools is not fully funded, especially considering the huge amounts dedicated to widening highways, which will encourage more people to drive single-occupancy vehicles passing through our neighborhoods and increase carbon emissions (and may very well lead to even more congestion). At the exact time we should be working to ease congestion by making it easier and safer for people to walk and bike, we are doubling down on dirty fossil fuels at the expense of our communities and the planet.

I urge you to commit full funding to Safe Routes to Schools in the Transportation Package and help protect our most vulnerable road users from the effects of climate change by:

- Removing the ten-year sunset on the program
- Expanding street safety funding to \$15M per year
- Funding in-classroom education with \$6M per year
- Including Title 1 prioritization for street safety projects
- Creating flexibility in local funding match requirement for Title 1 schools
- Expanding the radius for eligible projects around schools to 1 mile

Thank you for the important work you are doing.

Best regards,

ANGEL FALCONER

City Councilor
City of Milwaukie