

My name is Soren Impey and I am a BikeLoudPDX board member (a grassroots bicycle advocacy organization) and co-founder of Livable Streets Action (a traffic safety community organization). I would like to thank the commissioners for the opportunity to give public testimony. In the past 2 years there have been 801 fatalities on Oregon roadways -- a 42% increase. In particular, pedestrian fatalities have increased almost 50% and 2016 is on pace to exceed this tragic toll. This unacceptable!

Vision Zero transportation reforms have a proven track-record of success in reducing fatalities and serious injury. We call on ODOT and the OTC to aggressively implement Vision Zero reforms to address the current safety crisis. Adoption of vision zero would require ODOT and the OTC put safety first in its funding and design of infrastructure. Specifically, we call on ODOT to prioritize funding for safety improvements when its multimodal safety metrics are not met.

ODOT's recent bicycle and pedestrian plan illustrates that safety has not been emphasized when it comes to active transportation. For example, given current funding levels it would take many decades to complete the pedestrian and bicycle network in Oregon. Due to this long-term deficit, we call on ODOT and the OTC to require that a significant fraction of Oregon Connect and STIP funding be allocated to bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements. BikeLoudPDX and Livable Streets Action is also launching a campaign to convince the legislature and Governor Brown to fund active transportation according to scenario 4 of ODOT's Bicycle and pedestrian plan.

Justifications for Prioritization of Funding for Traffic Safety and Active Transport:

- Safety
 - The road user fatality rate has increased to crisis levels.
 - Active transportation improvements help make roads safer for all modes.
- Equity
 - Many safety and active transportation deficits are concentrated in socioeconomically-deprived areas.
- Livability
 - Active transportation is an effective and affordable way to decrease road congestion.
 - Active transportation is an effective and affordable path to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.
- Economic
 - Active transportation-associated businesses and industries are a fast-growing economic sector in Oregon.
 - Investment in active transportation-related tourism generates a strong economic benefit to rural areas.

Soren Impey, BikeLoudPDX board member and Direct Action Coordinator

Email: bikeloudpdx@gmail.com

Phone: (503) 912-8894

BikeLoudPDX.org