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February 27, 2017

House Committee on Transportation Policy Representative Caddy McKeown, Chair 900 Court Street NE, Room 431 Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 2745 - Transit Funding

Chair McKeown and Members of the Committee:

The board of directors of Bend 2030 has voted unanimously to support HB 2745, currently before the Oregon Legislature.

Bend is expected to grow 40% by 2030. Our city has adopted a vision for the future which calls for us to strategically manage our city's growth, maintaining its small-town character and friendly, inviting atmosphere, while supporting its economic prosperity, livability, accessibility and growing cultural diversity.

A strong public transit system is a critical element in that vision. Public transit attracts new businesses, makes it easy for people to get to work, school and play, reduces traffic and helps goods and services move smoothly through our City and the region.

We are working to build a transportation system for Bend which takes a balanced, environmentally friendly, "multi-modal" approach, accommodating private automobiles, commercial traffic, regional, accessible pedestrian and bicycle pathways, and, of course, a clean and efficient public transportation system.

The needs of each community in Central Oregon are different, and here in Bend we need to be able to define our own needs and decide for ourselves how to pay for them. That's why it's important to us that this bill gives local communities a choice on whether and how we fund public transit.

We encourage the House Transportation Committee to move HB 2745 forward, and support its passage in this session. Thank you for giving Bend the option to decide on the future of a public transit system that will fuel the economic growth of our City while preserving its special character.

Signature.

Gellian Spylor Bross Chair