HB 2482   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By:	Michael Lantz, Counsel
Meeting Dates:	3/15, 3/22, 4/1, 4/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides that a person who intentionally or knowingly enters or remains unlawfully in or on a public transit vehicle or station can no longer be charged with the crime of interfering with public transportation. Allows person to provide a peace officer with a "preferred name" if the officer can ascertain the person's identity using an identification document or other information provided by the person. Defines "preferred name." Prohibits a police officer from conducting or participating in activities intended to determine whether a person has paid user charges, fees, or tolls imposed by a mass transit district.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:
- Personal experiences interacting with transit police
- Safety concerns for transit employees
- Current TriMet policies and practices

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Under current Oregon law, a person can be charged with interfering with public transportation, a Class C misdemeanor, if the person intentionally or knowingly enters or remains unlawfully in or on a public transit vehicle or station. The charge becomes a Class A misdemeanor if the person has three or more prior convictions for interfering with public transportation. Additionally, it is a Class A misdemeanor to give a false or fictitious name, address, or date of birth to a police officer serving a citation, checking a warrant, or enforcing motor vehicle laws. Finally, there is no current prohibition on police officers participating in checks to determine whether a person has paid a mass transit fare.

House Bill 2482 modifies the crimes of Interfering with Public Transportation (ORS 166.116), Giving False Information to a Peace Officer in Connection With a Citation or Warrant (ORS 162.386), and Giving False Information to a Police Officer (ORS 807.620). The measure also prohibits police officers from conducting or participating om fare checks for mass transit districts.