

I am a transportation advocate who lives in North Portland. There are a litany of policy initiatives and investments that our city, region and state need to make to improve public transportation so that our state has a shot of hitting our goals of reducing air pollution, carbon emissions, traffic violence, and ongoing congestion. We need to be making all sorts of changes to how we design our communities and what infrastructure we invest in so that transit is considered a safe, reliable, accessible mode of getting around. However, not all Oregonians experience our transportation system the same way. I'm eager to support HB 2482 and thrilled to listen to your discussion about how we can move forward with making more communities feel safe on public transportation, especially in the wake of a substantial reckoning with state violence and the murder of George Floyd. Clearly, it's neither cost-effective nor productive for armed police officers to be the public sector employees charged with basic tasks like fare inspection. Please pass this bill and let's continue to rethink public safety that works for all Oregonians, and acknowledges the valid concerns communities of color have raised for decades about the egregious trespasses of law enforcement (and the impacts that has to our transportation system and state as a whole).