

Members of the Committee:

As a planner who has worked on Transit-Oriented Development throughout the nation, It surprises me that Oregon, which is generally a leader in land use policy and practice is so slow and timid getting to this one.

Please support HB 2558. The proposed 1/8 mile radius is just a 2-minute walk away. People of varying incomes need to be able to live near good public transit. The greater density allowed by this bill will not only do that, but will help to ensure sufficient ridership to support public transit and ensure a fairer distribution of the benefits of the public subsidy that transit gets.

A better bill would extend the radius even further and allow for even larger buildings, especially for projects that create below-market homes. 1/4 mile is just a 5-minute walk away and 1/3 mile is a 7-minute walk - either of these would be stronger options--with greater impact.

Please do not let the Republican refusal to show up for the hearing today undercut this important bill. It deserves to be passed on to the full Legislature for a vote.

Thanks,
Mary Vogel
PlanGreen