

Submitter: Tegan Valo
On Behalf Of: B-Line Urban Delivery
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: SB1572

My name is Tegan Valo, I'm a lifelong Portland resident and I'm representing B-Line Urban Delivery.

I'm writing to urge our leaders to end the status quo of doubling down on car dependency that has been rotting our country since at least the 60s. I'm writing to ask you to look out at a nation being choked by endless miles of sprawling, gridlocked freeways and ask, honestly, is this the way the world has to be? Is this the way things should be? I'm here to ask our leaders to consider why a country such as The Netherlands, known for their world-class cycling and transit development, has been called the best country in the world for drivers. It's because they understand that the way to reduce congestion is not more asphalt, but rather, more options, such as the ability comfortably ride a bike or take public transit, and arrive at your destination efficiently and without harm. Everybody wins when only the people who truly want to drive are the ones driving. Any expansion of passenger rail infrastructure would be a welcome step in that direction that we would support.

For the last four years, I've had the distinct pleasure of working somewhere where everyday I get to see a glimpse of what that better world could look like. I work for a local small business called B-Line Urban Delivery, a cycle logistics and last-mile delivery company, where every day we move thousands of pounds of product into the urban core on our electric freight tricycles. Our impact reporting for 2022 showed that our little tricycles, with up to 700lbs per load, diverted 321,538 miles of travel that would have otherwise been driven by trucks, eliminating over 500,000lbs of CO2 emissions, comparable to flying round trip from Portland to New York City 709 times. I reject any suggestion that the needs of freight and the economy are at odds with the needs of the environment and the citizens who live on our streets. We believe that the need to move freight is a valid concern, but that there are far better ways of reducing congestion on our freeways and roads than adding lanes. One of those ways is to give people viable alternatives, which an expansion of WES service would be.

Please support this measure and all future efforts to expedite the expansion of passenger rail in Oregon. Thank you.