



Good evening Co-Chairs Gorsek and McClain, Co-Vice Chairs Starr and Boshart- Davis, and members of the committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Stephanie Cameron, and I am the Founder/Executive Director of Restored Connections Peer Center (RCPC), a peer-run recovery center in Lane County dedicated to supporting individuals overcoming substance use disorder. We provide a vital bridge for individuals navigating recovery, housing instability, and reintegration into the workforce.

One of our strongest and most impactful partnerships is with Lane Transit District (LTD). Through our collaboration, RCPC is able to provide individuals in our services free bus passes, due to the 75% discount we receive, ensuring access to essential services, medical care, job interviews, and recovery support meetings. This partnership has been instrumental in breaking down a fundamental barrier to success: transportation access.

The Critical Role of Transportation in Recovery and Stability

Lack of transportation is one of the most significant barriers for individuals seeking recovery and stability. For the people we serve, a lack of reliable transportation can mean:

Missed Medical Appointments:

Many of our community members require regular medical care, including medication-assisted treatment (MAT), counseling, and mental health services. Without affordable transportation, they are unable to maintain these critical services, leading to increased health risks and potential relapse.

Limited Access to Employment Opportunities:

Job seekers who rely on public transportation often struggle to find work that aligns with transit schedules or is within reasonable commuting distance. This forces them into cycles of unemployment and economic hardship, preventing long-term stability.

Difficulty Accessing Social Services and Recovery Support:

At RCPC, we provide peer mentoring, housing navigation, and employment support. Without transportation, individuals are unable to regularly engage in these services, isolating them from their recovery networks and increasing the likelihood of returning to crisis situations.

Increased Risk of Housing Insecurities:



Many individuals who access our services are working to transition from homelessness to stable housing. When transportation is unreliable or unaffordable, they cannot meet with caseworkers, attend housing interviews, or maintain employment—pushing them further into cycles of instability.

The Impact of LTD's Partnership

Thanks to LTD's 75% discount program, RCPC has been able to directly address these challenges. The impact has been profound:

Increased retention in treatment and recovery services. Individuals with affordable transportation are far more likely to stay engaged in services and successfully navigate recovery.

Higher employment success rates. Many of our participants have been able to secure jobs, maintain employment, and attend training opportunities that would have otherwise been inaccessible.

Improved health outcomes. Reliable transportation means individuals can consistently attend medical appointments, access prescriptions, and participate in mental health support.

Gratitude for the Support of Transportation Accessibility

The collaboration between LTD and RCPC has been life-changing for many of the individuals we serve. By reducing the financial burden of transportation, we have been able to provide stability, access, and opportunity to those working hard to rebuild their lives.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to LTD and to this committee for recognizing the critical role that transportation plays in recovery and community reintegration. Your commitment to ensuring that transportation remains accessible and affordable is making a real difference in the lives of so many. Thank you for your continued support and for allowing me to share the impact of this partnership today.