

Submitter: Maeve Fox  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1202

My name is Maeve Fox, and I'd like to voice my support for the formation of the Oregon Department of Rail and Transit. Public transit has had a consistent and material impact on my life ever since moving to Portland. 2 weeks before moving here my car broke down, and I had to bum a ride from a friend just to make it out here. Ever since I've taken advantage of transit consistently, and expanding out the network expands access to more people, as well as improves options for everyone, not just people that solely rely on it. I have friends and family out in Boise, some of whom I rarely ever get to see, but with better transit options to more and more urban centers it would become much easier to reforge those connections. Passenger rail is also the reason I'm going to be able to travel outside of the country for the first time, with a trip planned up to Vancouver BC in a few weeks, and I'm excited to expand my horizons. Zoomed out from just my personal use case, more transportation options can help bring Oregon together in this time of turmoil, and bring economic opportunity to more people. I support the suggested tire tax to help establish dedicated funding for public transit and ODRT, as it's a viable starting point for putting more money back toward the services that so many rely on daily.

Thank you for your time.