

Submitter: Robin Bogushevich

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1202

As an Oregonian who deeply values sustainable transportation, I believe this bill represents a critical step forward in modernizing and strengthening our state's public transit and rail infrastructure. By transferring the responsibilities for rail and public transit from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to a new, dedicated agency, the state is positioning itself to meet the growing demand for efficient, reliable, and equitable transportation alternatives.

A focused agency like the ORTD can better prioritize long-term planning, community engagement, and coordination between urban and rural transit systems. It allows for a more specialized approach to challenges like decarbonization, regional connectivity, and accessibility—issues that too often take a backseat under a broader, highway-centered ODOT.

Creating the State Rail and Transit Board will also ensure more targeted oversight and accountability, giving transit the strategic leadership it deserves in Oregon's future. This change will benefit workers, commuters, students, and underserved communities, while also supporting economic development and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

I respectfully urge you to support this legislation and help Oregon build a more sustainable and connected future.