



May 9, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez,

As legislators from Washington County, we write in support of the request for \$50 M in state bonding for the Tualatin Valley (TV) Highway Bus Rapid Transit Project, led by TriMet and Metro. This project will bring critical transit and safety improvements to an urban arterial in desperate need of investment.

At the total cost of the project at \$300 M, state investment of \$50 M will help close the gap required to draw down \$150 M in federal dollars. Metro, TriMet, Washington County, and the Cities of Beaverton, Hillsboro, Forest Grove, and Cornelius have a strong partnership around this project and are at the table to provide \$100 M to TV Highway.

Oregon Highway 8, known as TV Highway, is a heavily trafficked transportation corridor in Washington County that connects regional and town centers from Beaverton to Forest Grove. TV Highway is served by TriMet's Line 57 bus, the second highest ridership line in the entire TriMet system.

TV Highway is in dire need of investment:

- **Safety:** The TV Highway fatal crash rate is nearly twice the regional average. More than half of fatal crashes between 2017-2021 involved pedestrians
- **Poor Bus Stop Infrastructure and Accessibility:** 54% of stops don't have a shelter, 34% don't have seating, and 41% have no lighting.
- **Slow Bus Travel:** Bus travel today takes about twice as long as driving.
- **High Ridership:** Line 57 has the most daily boardings in Washington County. This bus line also has experienced around a 90% bounce-back rate compared to pre-pandemic ridership.

Our constituents and community members have advocated for years for a safer TV Highway and a more dignified transit rider experience. The TV Highway Steering Committee has met since 2022 to develop a community led and supported project. The TV Highway Equity Coalition was established by Unite Oregon to inform the planning process and ensure the diverse perspectives of the region were considered.

The TV Highway Bus Rapid Transit Project will result in:

- **Improved safety:** Every station will be paired with a crossing & four major intersections will be rebuilt for pedestrian and driver safety
- **More frequent service:** TV Highway would be upgraded to 12-minute bus service
- **Station amenities:** Covered bus shelters, lighting, and boarding platforms at 41 station pairs
- **Increased transit speed and reliability:** 59 signal upgrades to accommodate transit signal priority
- **Bus upgrades:** 15 new zero-emission vehicles, bus chargers and a bus facility upgrade

Local governments are committed to contributing 67% of the state and local match required for the federal Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program. We ask for your help to make this project a reality by closing the state and local funding gap to draw down \$150 M in federal investments to Oregon.

Sincerely,



State Senator Wlsnvey Campos
Senate District 18



State Representative Farrah Chaichi
House District 15



State Representative Ken Helm
House District 27



State Representative Nathan Sosa
House District 30