

## Testimony in Support of SB 5531 Lottery Bond Authorization

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

**Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Nosse, and members of the committee,**

We are writing today as proud Community Ambassadors for T.V. highway, representing the [Tualatin Valley Equitable Development Strategic plan \(TEDS\)](#). Our ambassador group is composed of local residents and community advocates who are deeply committed to advancing equitable development and public investment in one of the most racially and economically diverse areas in Washington County. We are writing to encourage and request commitment for **continued investment in the communities that have historically been excluded from public infrastructure and economic development efforts. This is why we strongly support the request for \$50 million in state bonding for the T.V. Highway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project.**

Everyday, we witness the consequences of the chronic underinvestment along this corridor: inaccessible and unsafe transportation infrastructure for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers, limited access to affordable housing, gaps in public services, and much more. The TV Highway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project, co-led by TriMet and Metro, represents an important step toward correcting these long-standing inequities we live with everyday.

The proposed investments, including enhanced pedestrian crossings, safer intersections, covered bus shelters, improved lighting, and real-time arrival information, will dramatically improve safety and mobility for residents who rely on public transit. The transit project will also introduce an express bus service with 12-minute intervals, connecting people to jobs, education, and essential services more reliably than ever before. This is not just a transit project, it is a lifeline for our community members that rely on TV Highway every day. But to realize the full potential of this investment, **we urge you to ensure that a meaningful portion of the lottery bond proceeds are directed toward multimodal transportation, affordable housing, support for small businesses, and community-serving infrastructure along the corridor.**

These investments are not just necessary, but long overdue. They will enhance safety, economic opportunity, and long-term community health. Most importantly, we call for continued community involvement in decision-making processes to ensure that residents' voices and lived experiences guide how investments are implemented in the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

**Gemma Balderas, María E. Rodríguez Cuamatzi, Xan Becker, Annadiana Johnson, the T.V. Highway Community Ambassador group**