

Submitter: Kirra Pressey

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek and Members of the Committee,

I write today in strong support of increased transit funding and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) program in HB 2025. The funding included in this package is essential to preventing devastating cuts to public transit service across Oregon.

As a single mother, public transportation has been more than just a convenience, it has been a lifeline for my family. My daughter, who just graduated high school last week, began using the bus daily at the start of her sophomore year. Public transit opened up the entire city to her - giving her the freedom to get to school, work, extracurriculars, and social events. It also gave her a deep appreciation for the importance of accessible public transportation; so much so that she never even sought her driver's license, she didn't need it.

With my own work schedule, I couldn't always be available to drive her. Without reliable transit, I truly believe her high school experience would have looked very different. She might not have graduated. She wouldn't have had a social life or been able to hold a job. Transit gave her independence, stability, and connection.

While I believe Oregon needs even more investment in transit, HB 2025 is a critical step. Please don't let families like mine lose access to the systems we depend on. I urge you to support HB 2025 and protect public transportation funding.

Sincerely,
Kirra Pressey
Salem, OR