

Submitter: Scott Seif

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Good Evening, Members of the Joint Transportation Committee.

My Service animal's name is Snowflake, and my name is Scott Seif.

We live in Portland, Oregon. We are here today to express our support for increased funding for public transportation in Oregon. The current level of funding proposed in the 2025 Oregon Transportation package is not sufficient to avoid service cuts.

Snowflake and I are among hundreds of thousands of people who depend on public transit. Disabled people like me depend on the freedom public transportation gives us to go places with the least amount of barriers to get around. It gives us a safe way to travel and is a vital lifeline to us. We don't have to worry about a distracted driver hitting us with their car. In my 62 years, Oregon's public transportation is one of the finest I have seen. It offers many choices:

- Children depend on public transportation to get to school and home, sports practices, social events, and shopping safely.
- Parents depend on the public transportation due to the cost, insurance, and maintenance of a car.
- Public transit cuts down on cars on the roads which helps save our environment, and wear and tear on public roads.
- Oregon struggles enough to repair roads because of our rainy season and snow seasons and the cost of road repairs are extremely high.
- More transit services play a major role in decreasing road damage by the billions.
- Tourism benefits. Let's face it, you can't take your car on the plane with you, so cities with public transportation can offer tourists more options than renting a car. So I am asking the Joint Transportation committee to take a minute and absorb what was just said and let your heart and mind think it over before you make any decisions. Please increase the budget to Oregon's transportation system so we can be the leader for the rest of America. Snowflake and I want to thank you for your time and hope to see you soon on public transit, come to Portland, and enjoy our city and hospitality.

Scott Seif  
Portland