

Submitter:

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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 support of the increased transit funding and the STIF program in HB 2025. The increased funding for the STIF program in this package will help prevent significant cuts to public transit service across Oregon.

The Greater Portland Metro region has been suffering terrible traffic congestion, constant roadwork, and far more erratic driving patterns than it had 10+ years ago. Additionally, cost of housing/living has exploded, while wages have not risen accordingly. Ongoing support of public transit is essential for the current community to continue to hang onto our homes and jobs without continuing to be pushed out of own city more and more, as has been happening. Oregonians are being replaced by transplants from other states because we can't afford to hang on. As someone who attended preK through college in Oregon, it has been heartbreaking to see how many of my friends and neighbors have had to leave for greener pastures because they couldn't stay.

I live in the southwest suburbs and have been going to school and/or working in downtown Portland for over 20 years. The support and stability of Trimet, which is lauded as an excellent public transit system across the nation, is essential for helping people get around. For all of us people who don't drive because we can't afford cars these days, or car insurance, or because the condition of roads and traffic are too stressful, or parking is too expensive, or because it's greener to bike and use public transportation, maintaining Trimet's current level of service is critical for being able to continue living and working here. If it weren't for Trimet, I guarantee that I would have joined my peers and neighbors by now and left this city, if not this state altogether, to be able to better balance my life.

While the funding proposed in this package is not enough to provide the additional transit service I would like to see, it will prevent Oregonians like me from being stranded without the transportation access I depend on. Please support HB 2025. Please support public services that help Oregonians be able to afford to stay and get around the city. It's hard enough to keep living here as it is.

Sincerely,

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Portland, OR