

Submitter: Marty Hegg

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Support for the HB 2025: STIF funding

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

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

I've taken TriMet to school from North Portland (the "fifth quadrant") to Downtown Portland in high school (in the mid 1980s) and to and from work after college, and it remains my main means of transportation today.

I currently take two buses to my office and back again three times a week. Already the frequency of these buses is reduced since pre-COVID days, but I rely on these lines to get me to and from work, the store, visiting my parents, and to meet up with friends.

Without TriMet's excellent reach and service, I would have a very hard time getting to and from work. I do not drive, as a result of witnessing a fatal crash as a child. I did not know it was so traumatic until I first attempted to drive a car at age 18. Since then, I've taken lessons and have tried some therapy to address the flashbacks, and neither diminished the anxiety attacks I have. So I do not drive, for fear that I could have such an attack while at the wheel. I've been so very appreciative to live in a city like Portland, that has such a strong network of bus and light rail lines to get people around town to appointments, work, school and entertainment venues.

While the funding proposed in this package isn't enough to provide additional service I'd like to see, it'll prevent Oregonians like me from being left without the transportation access I rely on. Please support HB 2025.

Sincerely,

Marty Hegg

Portland, OR