

Submitter: Renn Sanderman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Support for HB 2025 – STIF funding

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.

My son lives with autism, and has very specific passionate interests. He recently turned 16 and is absolutely committed to his long-term career goal of becoming an operator for TriMet. He participates in programs, currently in outer SE Portland, Milwaukie, Beaverton, and West Linn, that rely on TriMet bus and MAX services. These programs are specifically designed to support individuals living with disability to transition to an adult life that is as independent and fulfilling as possible. As my son begins his transition to adulthood, he will rely on transit to get him to entry-level jobs with TriMet. We currently live a block from the west-most stop on the 1-Vermont line, and service has been reduced in recent years. Further reduction in service would greatly impact his ability to live as independently as he is capable of as a young adult. He has the skills to navigate TriMet's robust system independently, as long as reductions in service do not force him onto the street for longer walks or wait times.

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 my son from being stranded without the transportation access he will depend on. Please support HB 2025.

Sincerely,

Renn Sanderman

Beaverton, OR