

Submitter: Melody Ghormley
On Behalf Of: Melody Ghormley and Kyle Kroker
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

My husband Kyle Kroker began riding MAX to & from work during snow/ice days the last couple of years. We live in inner SE Portland, and he works in Beaverton, so he used to drive the Sunset highway in a tiny little 1994 Geo Metro (with no air conditioning) every day during morning and evening rush hours. His car commute used to be so very dangerous and stressful because all the other cars were huge and drivers drove too fast. He was a nervous wreck by the time he got to work and then again when he got home. He used to be afraid to ride MAX because some of the riders act out, and because of the murders a few years ago. NOW, however, he loves it because it's so much less stressful than driving. He's better able to cope with the other riders, he's made some friends, he can read and relax, and there's AIR CONDITIONING. He takes the Orange Line from near our house in Brooklyn, transfers to Blue or Red Line downtown and gets off within a few blocks of his lab, then reverses the rides on the way home. On the way home when he gets downtown, he has the choice of the Orange MAX line or one of the many buses that stop on SE Powell Blvd. Because we live close in, he has options - and he gets exercise getting to and from his stops.

I'm retired but we belong to Portland Art Museum, Oregon Historical Society, and Portland Japanese Garden. I love being able to get to many of my favorite places on MAX and the Street Car without having to find and pay for parking. And we both use the Hop Fast Pass Card (senior rate for me!). So, yes, we fully support funding for Tri-Met. Thank you for this opportunity to submit our testimony.