

Submitter: Grant O'Connell

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.

I personally experienced economic hardship in my young adulthood. Transit service was the sole reason I was able to maintain my job, contribute to the economy, and avoid financial ruin. This moment was so impactful to my life, I wanted to give back and so I started working as a transit professional. I have dedicated my career to public service. I know first-hand what transit service means to our community. Between children, seniors, and the disabled, a significant portion of our population is unable to drive. This service ensures that these community members remain active participants in our economy and community.

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.

Sincerely,
Grant O'Connell