

Submitter: Joel Bravo

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,

My name is Joel Bravo and I am a resident of Portland. I write today in support of the increased transit, rail, and safe street funding and the STIF program in HB 2025. I first moved to Portland because of its great renown for walkability and transit, something I felt set it apart from many other cities and made it an attractive place to live in. Like many other Oregonians, the savings from having access to reliable and frequent public transit has been significant, especially given the high cost of car ownership. The environmental and health benefits from no longer needing to drive everywhere means much for me, as does the simple benefit of not having to struggle with increasingly heavy traffic thanks to public transit.

A lack of investment in transit, pedestrian infrastructure, and passenger rail, however, would deeply jeopardize all these great things. I would find myself taking on a significant financial burden as my transportation costs skyrocket from car ownership, something a large amount of Oregonians would face. I, alongside all Oregonians, would face increasingly unsafe streets, a worsening environment, out of control traffic, and a worse quality of life. New dollars must be prioritized to avoid this disastrous scenario and meet our safety, climate, and mobility needs. Beyond the levels of investment proposed in HB 2025, the STIF must be raised to the 0.5% proposed by the Oregon Transit Association and TriMet. While the current proposed increase will avoid cuts, a thriving public transit system that can expand and provide a significant return on investment needs a larger increase.

Let's build a future where every Oregonian has access to safe, reliable, and sustainable transportation options. I urge you to pass a transportation package this session that moves Oregon forward.