

Submitter:

Skye McLaren Walton

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

My name is Skye, and I live in Portland. I'm testifying today because I support a 2025 transportation package that works for ALL Oregonians and reflects our shared values of safety, affordability, equity, and climate resilience. In particular, I urge you to fully fund public transit and passenger rail service.

Oregon's communities need a better transportation system that is healthy, affordable, and safe. Imagine an Oregon where we all have the freedom to choose how we commute. Where kids can get to school safely and reliably. Where public transit gets you there and back on time. Relatively small investments now can have huge payouts in getting all Oregonians where they need to go while improving our economy, environment, and public health.

It's essential to pass a transportation package that:

- Invests deeply in public transit.
- Funds safety first.

Personal story: I live in a neighborhood with a frequent service bus line: the 8 by OHSU campus. For "frequent service", the 8 constantly experiences delays and confusion for riders about the current route as it navigates around construction projects. We should be making easier to ride frequent service transit lines. Those without cars, such as myself, often use Trimet to get to and from work. If I don't trust that going by bus will get me to work on time, I usually end up using a rideshare service, which costs me almost 10 times as much daily vs. commuting by public transit.

Frequent service lines should be FREQUENT and RELIABLE (every 10 minutes from 7am to 7pm). It's also a safety issue in my neighborhood. There areas lacking proper sidewalks on one side of the street, forcing folks to cross the road on a hill just before the hospital, where driver unfortunately drive a little too fast before finally slowing down.

New dollars must be prioritized to meet our safety, climate, and mobility needs. If we're going to ask Oregonians to pay more, we have an obligation to put their dollars to work for the future.

That means:

- Improving health and safety by funding popular but underfunded programs like Safe Routes to School, Great Streets, and Oregon Community Paths.
- Saving Oregonians money by expanding safe streets, public transit and passenger rail that helps us save on gas, parking, and car maintenance.

We can't afford to wait. 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.

Sincerely,

Skye McLaren Walton

Portland, Oregon