

June 11, 2025

Please Support the 2025 Transportation Package

Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek, members of the Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment, I am Maria Hinojos Pressey and I serve as the Board President for Cherriots, the transit provider for Oregon's Capital City and the surrounding areas.

We appreciate the legislature's work to support public transportation despite the state's budget challenges. While the funding proposed in this package is not enough to allow transit providers to expand service and some cuts will still be necessary, it aligns with the rest of the package in maintaining core service.

The Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) implemented in the 2017 package has been transformational and allowed new transit investments in the Salem-Keizer community. Cherriots was able to implement weekend and evening service and provide expanded access to youth riders.

In calendar year 2024 Cherriots provided over 3.3 million rides an 8.7% increase over the previous year and the highest ridership since 2014. Approximately 27% of those rides are youth riders.

As a result of the STIF investment Cherriots weekend service has provided over 2.2 million weekend rides.

The STIF investment has been transformational and life changing for bus riders in our community. Some of those riders are here this evening and will testify on how our enhanced service has made a difference in their lives.

Thank you for allowing me to testify this evening and to let you know that the Cherriots board of directors supports HB 2025.

Thank you.

Maria Hinojos Pressey
Board President, Cherriots