

Submitter: Zachery OBrien

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Public transit is one of the many essential services that keep the state of Oregon functional and is just as crucial as services like police, medical, or really anything considered essential. Good public transit systems take cars off our busy highways and reduce emissions and stress levels everywhere. Isn't it great to sit back and let someone else drive you to your destination? Doesn't it send a message when a MAX flies by stand-still traffic at 55mph? Transit needs the proper level of funding. If it doesn't, our entire state will suffer. Bus service will be monumentally worse, and a death spiral begins. No one wants to use a transit system that has half of its routes cut. We fund car infrastructure without a second thought. Why not transit? Car-oriented infrastructure and car-oriented cities have been proven time and time again to not work. It's time to recognize how important excellent public transit is, and we simply cannot go on with inadequate funding. An increase must happen, and the region must get more transit. Personally, I go and ride transit at least once a week and I absolutely appreciate what it does for me. I get to do things that aren't focused on driving a vehicle. I can look out the window, scroll on my phone, chat with a friend, and more. If my local transit lines disappeared because there wasn't enough funding to support bus and rail line operations, it would be a disaster. Many passengers would be very upset. Not just on the routes I frequent, but on the massive percentage of routes that would be cut completely in just 6 years. Six short years is all it takes. Other routes would simply get less frequency and trips per day. That continues the death spiral, as no one wants to wait for a bus that's suddenly half the frequency. This house bill might just be the most important one in a while. It must pass, and I will continue to vocalize my support and push the state to realize that the current situation isn't sustainable, but well funded transportation is. Not everyone owns a car and not everyone wants one, so I am in full support of House Bill 2025 and wish nothing but the best for the state I've called home my entire life.

Sincerely,

Zachery O'Brien

Hillsboro, OR