

Submitter: Carver Akiteru Oblander

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek, Vice Chairs Boshart-Davis and Starr, and members of the committee:

My name is Carver Akiteru Oblander and I live in Portland. I'm testifying to express my gratitude for your hard work in coming to a transportation package proposal that makes many significant and important investment in our state's future. In particular, dedicated funding for Amtrak Cascades service is a gamechanger for this important transportation corridor.

However, there are a few changes that would help push this bill over the top as a bold statement of our state's values. I urge you to consider fully funding passenger rail service and public transit. While the proposed funding levels may stave off many cuts to service, full funding would allow public transit to actually expand. This is vital for the many Oregonians who cannot drive or choose not to. We all deserve to be able to go to work, school, or the doctor's office.

As someone who is able to drive and owns a car, I am fortunate to have that option, but I would much rather rely on more efficient alternatives, which would also be less expensive for me. Cars are a major, ongoing investment, so paying higher taxes in exchange for reducing my dependence on driving is a very worthwhile trade for me.

Please consider ensuring public transportation and passenger rail has dedicated, robust, strong dedicated funding streams, such as the Vehicle Privilege Tax for Passenger Rail to raise at least \$45 million per year or the STIF payroll tax at 0.5% for Public Transportation by 2030. And also consider improving health and safety by funding popular but underfunded programs like Safe Routes to School, Great Streets, and Oregon Community Paths.

Thank you for your time.