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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

I have been lucky enough to usually not have to rely on public transportation -- but like everyone, there are many occasions when I cannot use my car. And the number of these occasions will increase as I age. As my ability to see in the dark becomes impaired, I will need public transportation in the evenings and late evenings.

VERY IMPORTANTLY, WE ALL rely on other people who rely on public transportation. Many of the people who work in the businesses where I buy essential goods or who work in agencies where I get essential services like medical care or government services rely on public transportation to come to work. These people -- as became very clear during the pandemic -- are essential workers. We all rely on public transportation so that they can come to work and go home every day.

We need a robust public transportation and we are all aware that public transportation is woefully underfunded that we are not preparing for our future needs. We -- and by that I mean the state legislators -- keep kicking this problem down the road. We cannot keep doing this.

The current bill is insufficient. You need to pass this bill and not allow any amendments that will weaken it -- and you must commit to doing better in the future.