

Submitter: Abby Griffith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Hello,

I'm writing to encourage you to vote for a major increase in transit funding.

Here in North Portland and around the state we lack good transit options. I live on one of the busiest not frequent lines in the TriMet system, the 35--but even it runs barely every 30 minutes and is slower after 5pm. I would love to be able to take other buses like 16, 75 and 4, but those routes are about 15-minutes' walk from where I live. It's this insufficient frequency that makes transit unattractive to Oregonians and is a regressive time tax on those who rely on transit.

The story in more rural areas of the state is much worse. There are non-drivers everywhere, but those who live in small towns or even just further from the center of the TriMet service area may not have safe access to their everyday needs.

TriMet and other agencies around the state have risen to the moment and worked over the last few years to increase safety and put the funds they have to good use. But those funds only go so far.

Meanwhile we're talking about expanding the freeway through the middle of the crowded city in order to temporarily save drivers a minute or two on their commutes (until an increase in driving makes traffic just as bad again).

We need to stand up for our climate, equity, and safety goals, and put our reversed priorities back in line. We need to stop wasting our money on new road widenings and start providing the transit service that the public deserves.

Can you commit to supporting the STIF funding increase transit agencies are requesting, to avoid cuts and instead add service for Oregonians in need?

Thank you for your time.