

Submitter: Catriona Buhayar

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing today in support of the increased transit funding and the STIF program in HB 2025. The increased funding for the STIF program in this package will help prevent significant cuts to public transit service across Oregon.

I am a lifelong Portland resident currently living in SE Portland who loves riding the bus. Trimet has gotten me where I need (and want) to go for almost 50 years.

Public transportation helps our entire community in so many ways:

- everyone can access good jobs, medical appointments, grocery stores, and other basic needs

- we can meet up with friends and family

- we can get to and from cultural events without needing ever more parking (and avoiding driving under the influence)

- we can go to the river and parks and even to the beach, Columbia Gorge, and other beautiful natural areas that are part of the gift of living in this region

- there are less internal combustion cars on the roads and less aggravation of sitting in traffic

These are things that should be available to everyone, not only people who have access to a car.

When there is an affordable, effective and safe transit system, we interact and mingle with our fellow inhabitants. We learn that we aren't actually all that scary. We get to look out the window and see where we live.

Stable funding for public transportation is essential for the solid service levels, safety, and cleanliness that regular people deserve when meeting their basic transportation needs as well as the joy of recreation via transit.

Thanks for all your hard work in the state legislature!

Cat