

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

My name is Mary Longoria, and I am a proud member and Financial Secretary-Treasurer for ATU 757. I have dedicated 27 years to transportation, serving TriMet in various capacities, including as a Trip Planner.

As a Trip Planner, I helped people get to where they needed to go: to work, doctor appointments, school, church, and everywhere in between. The calls that always resonated most were from parents, working moms and dads who had to get to work by a certain time, but first had to navigate dropping off one child at daycare potentially across town, another at school, and then commute to their own jobs. And let's not forget the reverse journey at the end of a long workday. These were truly long days for them, but most were simply appreciative that public transportation was there to get them to and from their destinations. This is the vital service we must protect.

Therefore, I strongly urge you to pass HB 2025, which includes the full STIF increase to 0.3%. This new rate is absolutely critical to prevent deep service cuts in transportation services that are being discussed across Oregon. By passing HB 2025, you will continue to protect transit service, preserve jobs, and ensure people can keep getting to where they need to go every single day.

Thank you for your time this evening.