

June 13, 2025

Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 2025 – STIF funding

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

I write 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 work for Hood River County Transportation District, who operates as Columbia Area Transit (CAT). CAT is the public transit provider for Hood River County and connects the Columbia River Gorge region with the Portland Metropolitan region. CAT provides fixed route, demand response and intercity express services. Ridership continues to grow steadily—by approximately 10% each year. In the past year alone, CAT provided over 85,000 rides, connecting residents to employment, healthcare, groceries, education, and more. In a county with fewer than 24,000 residents, this impact is substantial. Not only does it provide a vital service that underpins economic vitality, social inclusion, and community resilience but it also employs 25 individuals in a small rural community.

HB 2025 is important for us to help us combat rising operating costs, allow us to continue providing critical services to community members, and expand Dial-a-Ride service to weekends.

While the funding proposed in this package is not enough to allow many transit providers to expand their service and some cuts will still be necessary, this increase in transit funding will prevent tens of thousands of Oregonians from being stranded without the transportation access they depend on. Please support HB 2025.

Sincerely,

Tim Ravins

Project Coordinator

Hood River County Transportation District (dba Columbia Area Transit)