



Josephine County Food Bank

3658 Upper River Road
PO Box 250
Grants Pass, Oregon 97528
Phone: (541) 479-5556
Fax: (541) 476-6268

Dear Joint Committee On Transportation Co-Chairs, Senator Gorsek and Representative McLain, and members of the Committee:

We are writing to ask you to support public transit in this legislative session of the Oregon State Legislature.

Josephine County Food Bank serves low-income residents of Josephine County, a primarily rural area in Southern Oregon. Each month, we provide nutritious food to over 21,000 people, including seniors, children, people with disabilities, and working families who struggle to make ends meet.

Our clients come from all corners of the county, many living in communities without a local food pantry, grocery store, or medical clinic. Public transit is a lifeline for these residents, connecting them to food, jobs, health care, and other essential services. In areas where fixed-route options are limited, even modest investments in rural transit can dramatically improve someone's ability to meet basic needs with dignity and independence.

We know that hunger rarely exists in isolation. Our clients are often making impossible choices between food and medicine, rent or gas. When affordable public transit is available, it reduces the number of tradeoffs families have to make and strengthens the very foundation of community well-being.

In rural and urban areas alike, investments in accessible public transportation deliver cost-effective, long-term benefits, just like food assistance programs. These systems help our neighbors not just survive but participate more fully in their communities.

As you consider the transportation bills before your committee, we urge you to protect and expand funding for public transit across Oregon, especially in rural regions like ours. It is a critical step toward building a more just and connected state.

With gratitude,

Josephine Sze
Executive Director
Josephine County Food Bank

“Because no one should be hungry!”