

## Testimony in Support of HB 2025

Passage of HB 2025 is essential for the economic and social well-being of Oregonians. This is a real transportation funding package that goes beyond just looking at pavement.

It addresses the 30% of the population who are unable to drive or do not have access to a motor vehicle. These include people who are disabled, have health conditions, have DUI convictions, the elderly and the low income who can't afford a vehicle. The transit portion of the bill keeps critical services in place that these people depend on.

Funding transit supports jobs, including the drivers and staff that provide the service and the people who use the service to get to jobs. Employees of the transit operators pay taxes that are a partial return on the investment in transit.

Transit provides access to health care. Without good public transit the Department of Human Resources would have higher costs to transport clients to medical services.

Transit also helps residents to access social services, grocery shopping, and personal business. Without funding services would be reduced stranding many who depend on it.

The provision providing funding for passenger rail will pay many dividends in the future. ODOT passenger rail plans from over 30 years ago projected 6 to 8 daily round trips between Eugene and Portland. These plans were never implemented because the funding for capacity improvements never materialized. This new funding will enable infrastructure investments to enable the addition of more trains. This will also benefit freight operations. Passenger rail can address travel needs which will help reduce the need to expand the I-5 freeway.

HB 2025 is supported by the Oregon Transit Association and the Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates. This bill is essential if Oregon is to meet the travel requirements of our state.

Robert Krebs – Retired Passenger Transportation Professional