

## House Bill 2025 Written Testimony



Robert Townsend  
Cascades East Transit  
Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council

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Dear Co-chairs Gorsek and McClain and members of the committee. Cascades East Transit (CET), operated by COIC, serves a large region east of the Cascades Mountains and provides accessible public transportation services throughout Deschutes, Jefferson, and Crook Counties and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. COIC supports the region as a trusted leader and partner, helping communities identify and address their unique and common needs through collaboration, shared service delivery, technical assistance, information sharing, and resource development.

CET's public transportation system provides a vital link for communities throughout Central Oregon to access employment, education, medical appointments, grocery stores, and other important destinations. Many community members rely on regional community connector buses, local Dial-A-Ride systems, and fixed routes in Bend to save money on housing and transportation costs. Increased transit funding through House Bill 2025 will allow Cascades East Transit to expand regional connector services, add frequency to existing routes, purchase new vehicles, develop mobility hubs, increase driver wages, and continue providing rides for rural veterans to access VA clinics and medical services.

Public transit is a lifeline for Central Oregonians to connect to their destinations. The proposed transit funding increase in House Bill 2025 will foster new and improved transit services and programs that will better connect communities and help strengthen local economies. Thank you for your efforts to develop a comprehensive legislative package that supports multimodal transportation investments across Oregon.

Best regards,

Robert Townsend

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