

February 19, 2012

Testimony in Support of SB 260 and SB 247

I'm Ron Kilcoyne, General Manager of the Lane Transit District.

Lane Transit District (LTD) has supported the goals and course of ConnectOregon I through IV. The long-term economic growth and job creation afforded to the LTD service area from the Multimodal Transportation Fund has proven successful in the short-term, and will continue to recoup benefits for years to come.

Lane Transit District has competitively received two grants through the ConnectOregon program, including;

- Pioneer Parkway Bus Rapid Transit Project (BRT) for \$5,400,000; and
- Veneta Park and Ride for \$656,000.

These projects have improved LTD's service and provided essential and much needed transportation enhancements that limit auto congestion, improve economic development opportunities and job growth. LTD supports the development of ConnectOregon V (SB 260) and the possibility of applying for projects that will leverage these funds to aid planning and development of the EmX BRT system, enhance rural services, and improve transit station infrastructure.

Further, LTD fully supports Governor Kitzhaber and Oregon Transportation Commission Chair Pat Eagan's call to find new revenue streams to fund Oregon's entire transportation system. SB 247 can help address their concerns. This bill creates an Alternative Transportation Fund, which funds mass transit, passenger rail, bicycle and pedestrian projects. It will also fund mass transit operational costs, which LTD is very interested in.

The transit authority has two projects that would directly benefit from this bill and improve the region's connectivity and livability. LTD has been interested in servicing the City of Florence with rural intercity bus service. The organization believes this service is financially viable, and this fund may allow a test pilot to occur to ensure its feasibility before making it permanent. Additionally, LTD, in collaboration with the City of Eugene and the University of Oregon, is actively pursuing a public bike share system. The city's bike share system would build from the University of Oregon's system and provide public bikes to residents and tourists. Bike share systems have proven to improve access and mobility, provide a cost-effective way to fill transit gaps, enhance transit rider catchment areas, and improve public health. Allowing LTD to competitively apply for operational funding for its bike share system would greatly improve the project's timeline.

LTD is supportive of SB 260, and the enhancement of ConnectOregon through SB 247. I look forward to following these bills through the legislative process, and continuing discussions around improving investments in the state's transportation system.



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