

February 22, 2013

House Transportation and Economic Development Committee
Oregon State House of Representatives
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Tobias Read and Members of the Committee,

TriMet strongly supports House Bill 2310, the so-called ConnectOregon program.

ConnectOregon investments address critical state-wide transit capital needs, and the Portland metropolitan area has benefitted from infrastructure improvements that allow transit mobility for commuters, as well as those needing to reach medical and other important social services. These capital improvements are an important part of keeping the metropolitan economy moving.

Past ConnectOregon funding has supported projects like the **188th Avenue MAX station reconstruction**, which substantially improved traffic and pedestrian safety and provided an economic spark for revitalization of Gresham's Rockwood neighborhood. ConnectOregon IV is funding TriMet partner **Ride Connection's Resource and Operations Center**, which will provide low-cost mobility for job training, work access, and medical needs for many disabled and elderly residents in our region.

As you know, there is a tremendous need for transit capital improvements and operations funding. ConnectOregon is an important piece to help meet these needs.

Thank you for your time and effort on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Aaron C. Deas
Office of Government Affairs
TriMet