

March 12, 2013

Testimony in Support of HB 2275

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

Lane Transit District (LTD) strongly supports HB 2275, specifically its proposal to increase the cigarette tax for additional dedicated funds to the Department of Transportation's Special Transportation Fund (STF).

LTD strives to provide the best service possible to the residents of the Eugene-Springfield area and our surrounding communities. This includes improving the quality of life for all its users, including elderly and people with disabilities. All LTD buses have been fully accessible to all users since 1985, which includes on-board announcements at major intersections and stops; buses that kneel at stops and also provide lifts and ramps for those with mobility devices or who are unable to use stairs; and educational training on how to use the bus for seniors and people with disabilities. These investments attract seniors and people with disabilities to fixed-route bus routes by lowering environmental barriers and improving confidence in the systems reliability. Through these offerings our elderly and disabled residents are allowed to age in place, which strengthens community ties, and saves the State of Oregon costs associated with assisted living.

Through *RideSource*, LTD provides transit service to people with disabilities who are unable to independently use LTD's accessible bus service due to a disability. *RideSource* is well regarded in the community, and is held as a high-quality, well-managed example for disability transit services around the state. This service has proven cost-effective while providing access for residents to medical appointments, shopping, meal sites, to work and to see family and friends.

Nationwide, the baby boom generation is approaching retirement, and will be more reliant on transit services to preserve their quality of life. The costs associated with just maintaining the current senior and disability transit services for the baby boom generation is expected to increase exponentially, making it difficult for LTD to maintain its transit system and its services.

HB 2275 would proactively address the imminent cost increase of providing the necessary transit service to our senior and disabled residents throughout the state. I look forward to following this bill through the legislative process and continuing discussions with you concerning improving the State's investments in our transportation system.

Sincerely,

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General Manager
Lane Transit District



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