



Steve
Novick
Commissioner

Leah Treat
Director

March 4, 2015

Representative Phil Barnhart, Chair
House Committee on Revenue
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 2858

Dear Chair Barnhart and Members of the Committee:

The Portland Bureau of Transportation and Portland Public Schools (PPS) have a strong shared interest in getting Portland students to and from their schools in a safe and efficient manner. It is in this context that I write to express the Portland Bureau of Transportation's support for HB 2858.

The Portland Bureau of Transportation and PPS have long partnered on Safe Routes to School efforts, focusing especially on making it safer and easier for PPS's elementary school students to walk, bike, or take the bus to school. More recently we have turned our attention to students in the upper grades attending PPS's middle and high schools. Our partnership on the Youth Pass program, which provides a TriMet transit pass to PPS high school students, has had profoundly positive impacts for PPS high school students. This program makes it easier for them both to attend school and access other community resources like the library or a job. We support PPS's efforts to make YouthPass available to all of their high schoolers, and ask for your support to expand "approved transportation costs" under ORS 327.006 to include the cost of providing transit passes to all students. I urge you to support for HB 2858.

Sincerely,



Leah Treat, Director

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