



Together we will reach, teach and inspire each student to excellence

2.20.15

Ron Kilcoyne
General Manager
Lane Transit District

Dear Ron,

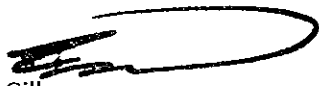
Bethel School District is enthusiastic about the possibility of taking part in a pilot project that will fund and study subsidized public transit passes for our students. History shows the Youth Pass program would have a significant impact on our students, and we wholeheartedly support this proposal.

The Lane Transit District's youth pass system is not a luxury but a necessity for many of our students. More than 55% of Bethel School District students are living at or near the poverty level. Each school day, numerous Bethel students board a Lane Transit District bus in order to make it to school on time. In the late afternoons and evenings – following band practice, Leadership meetings and other activities – these same students rely on LTD to take them home again. For many, the ability to ride LTD at no cost will assure that they can take part in important after-school enrichment activities. In smaller pilots, public transportation passes have been well utilized and increased student transportation options. Some students also use the service to get to part-time jobs after school to help support their families.

The pilot program would provide transit passes to approximately 3,000 Bethel middle and high school students. This is a vital transportation option that would not only improve Bethel students' access to education, but would also increase their safety and significantly reduce traffic around our schools.

We know this to be true because our school district took part in this program for five years when it was funded by the Oregon Department of Energy's Business Energy Tax Credit program, and an increasing number of our students were accessing LTD's useful services each year. This is clearly a significant program for Bethel families and an important resource for our district. We thank you for your efforts on their behalf, and eagerly anticipate being able to offer this project again so it can be properly studied and perhaps restored statewide.

Sincerely,



Colt Gill
Superintendent
Bethel School District