



**Rogue Valley
Metropolitan Planning Organization**

Regional Transportation Planning

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January 29, 2016

Honorable Representative Caddy McKeown
Chair
House Committee on Transportation and Economic Development
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St., NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Subject: HB 4078 – Transit Expansion Fund

Dear Representative McKeown,

It has come to our attention that HB 4078, the *Transit Expansion Fund* is being introduced to the House Committee on Transportation and Economic Development that would provide additional funding for Oregon's smaller rural and small metropolitan transit providers. The Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (RVMPO) strongly supports this proposed legislation.

Transit is a key component of the RVMPO's regional transportation system. Our MPO provides one half of our Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds to the Rogue Valley Transportation District (RVTD) to help support transit operations in the Rogue Valley. However, more funding is necessary to reach our regional goals of providing viable transportation choices for the citizens of the Rogue Valley.

Our understanding is that HB 4078 provides for state funds to be used to provide for the local match for specific transit operators throughout the state. RVTD leaves hundreds of thousands in federal funds on the table every year due to lack of a local match. This bill, if passed, would provide for the entire amount of local match. Given the growth of transit ridership on RVTD's system, this funding would produce amazing results for transit in the Rogue Valley. It could provide higher frequency on existing routes, expand routes to current areas unserved such as, Rogue Community College's (RCC) Table Rock Campus, and extend current hours and weekend service.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Quilty
RVMPO Chair