



LTD Neutral on House Bill 4078

House Bill 4078 creates a state-supported transit expansion fund. Lane Transit District (LTD) lauds the state's effort to create a dedicated funding source for public transportation operations. If passed, House Bill 4078 will provide a great asset to a number of Oregon's smaller transit agencies, but will not be available to Lane Transit District. For that reason, LTD is neutral on this bill.

Transit service across the state, while localized in operations, provides value to the state as a whole. Light rail trains transport millions of visitors to and from the Portland International Airport. Intercity buses help coastal residents and tourists travel between major cities and coastal towns from Astoria to Gold Beach. Bus service in La Grande makes it possible for students in Northeastern Oregon to have access to higher education. And transit service in the Rogue Valley keeps the local economy vibrant.

Nationally, Oregon ranks low for state support of transit operations, providing roughly three percent of transit operating dollars compared to the nationwide average of 24 percent. Transit providers large and small struggle to cobble together sufficient operating funds to match federal grants and meet the service needs of their communities. House Bill 4078 would help alleviate some of this struggle.

While LTD is neutral on the bill, HB 4078 is a good start in assisting and supporting smaller transit agencies in meeting growing demand for transit service in their communities.