



February 5, 2016

Senate Committee on Housing and Transportation
Senator Lee Beyer, Chair
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

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Central Oregon
Works*

Re: Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council Support for SB 1527 – TriMet’s eFare Card Fix

Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee,

The Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) supports SB 1527, which would exclude TriMet’s eFare Card program from state unclaimed property and gift card statutes.

Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council operates the Cascades East Transit system, which is the public transit service for Bend and the Central Oregon region. CET provides 10 local fixed routes in Bend and transit services within and between the seven other Central Oregon cities and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

We support TriMet’s efforts to launch the eFare program. Technologies such as eFare provide riders with convenient options for accessing transit service, which in turns encourages transit ridership.

CET is in a much earlier stage of development than TriMet, but we embrace innovative approaches to improving the efficiency and convenience of transit services. We are launching real time online bus information in 2016, which will allow riders to know the exact location of buses and the wait time for the next bus to arrive. We plan to continue to employ technologies over time, potentially including eFare cards or other innovative approaches to serving our customers.

We appreciate that TriMet will be implementing the eFare system, and we are confident that the lessons learned through this process will be beneficial to CET.

Thank you,

Andrew Spreadborough
Executive Director
Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council
Cascades East Transit