

PBOT

PORTLAND BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION

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Steve Novick Commissioner Leah Treat Director

February 23, 2016

Representative Shemia Fagan, Chair
House Consumer Protection and Government Effectiveness Committee
900 Court Street, NE, HR D
Salem, Oregon 97301

Subject: Support for Senate Bill 1527

Dear Chair Fagan:

Senate Bill 1527 relates to the new, regional, electronic fare system being developed by TriMet that will make it faster, easier and more convenient to use public transit. Both the City of Portland, Portland Streetcar, and C-Tran are participants with TriMet in the development of the eFare system.

The eFare system is simple, fast and secure and offers customers easy account management, lost card protection, and a fair pay-as-you-go system. Once implemented, our customers will be able to board the Portland Streetcar and swiftly and conveniently pay with a transit debit card.

SB 1527 exempts transit fare cards from Oregon's unclaimed property act. Under current law, unused fares would remit to the state after three years. This bill permits unused fare card balances to be retained for public transportation and allows infrequent riders to not have their eFare balances transferred to the State. The effect is the same as unused paper tickets or bus tokens.

We support SB 1527 as a critical aspect of the transition to eFare ticketing.

Thank you,



Leah Treat, Director
Portland Bureau of Transportation



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