

**Testimony to the Joint Subcommittee On Capital Construction
on Senate Bill 5530**

May 19th, 2017

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey and Members of the Committee,

We urge you to support budgeting \$150 million in State funds for the Southwest Corridor light rail project in the Portland Region.

At The Street Trust, we advocate for healthy and thriving communities where it is safe and easy for people to bike, walk and ride public transit. Portland's longstanding commitment to light rail helps reduce traffic congestion, provides affordable transportation choices, supports regional economic development, and allows people to walk and ride bikes greater distances by being able to hop on the train.

The extension of light rail service in the Southwest Corridor will serve one of the fastest growing regions in the state with a desperately needed alternative to driving. People who don't have multiple transportation choices are often limited because they don't have another way to get around besides driving alone in a car. This option is expensive, environmentally harmful, unhealthy, and clogs freight movement on our highways. Increasing transportation choices with new light rail service will improve people's quality of life and independence, which is a worthy investment.

The State of Oregon will be well served if you choose to fund a small portion of the overall project costs. The light rail project will be able to leverage State investment to sustain project development while attracting Federal, regional, and local matching investments to help us realize this vision. Existing light rail lines in Oregon provide benefits that far outweigh the initial project construction costs and over the long term they reduce the burden on transit providers because they are cost efficient to operate and maintain.

I encourage you to please support budgeting \$150 million in State funds for the Southwest Corridor light rail project in the Portland Region.

Sincerely,
Gerik Kransky
Policy Director

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