

6/5/17

Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization

HB 2017-3

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

My name is Luke Norman. I am writing on behalf of Clackamas Community College to support dedicated transit funding for community colleges in HB 2017.

Clackamas Community College (CCC) provides 25,000 students the opportunity to further their education through career technical certificates and transfer degrees. However, 20% of our students have been unable to take or complete a course due to a transportation barrier. This is especially challenging for students who are unable to drive due to their age, income, or disability status.

To address this need, in 2011 CCC leveraged federal funds to launch a free shuttle for students that provides express service from the TriMet MAX to the college. We've seen ridership grow by 190% to over 10,000 rides per term, as more students use the shuttle to access education.

However, while the need has grown, federal funding has ended. Over the past year, 400 students have been turned away from full shuttles. CCC is not able to meet the needs of all our students alone.

For this reason, we encourage you to **dedicate a segment of the additional transit funding from the employee payroll task to community colleges**. As community colleges play a key role in workforce development, it's important that our current and future students have affordable and reliable options to access education.

Your support can ensure that transportation is a bridge, instead of a barrier to education.

Warm regards,

Luke Norman

Transportation Systems Analyst

luke.norman@clackamas.edu