



*City of Culver*  
200 First Ave.  
P.O. Box 368  
Culver, OR 97734  
(541) 546-6494  
cityhall@cityofculver.net

June 5, 2017

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue  
Senator Mark Hass, Chair  
Senator Brian Boquist, Vice-Chair  
900 Court Street NE, Room 354  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 2745B

Chair Hass, Vice-Chair Boquist, and Members of the Committee

The City of Culver is supportive of a structure so that communities will have the opportunity to independently develop transit funding while retaining the regional Cascades East Transit (CET) system under COIC governance. The City of Culver supports the specific components of this concept that include:

- Allow eligible ORS 190 organizations authorization to propose property tax funded operating levies for transit operations within areas served by the organization, when authorized by the city council and/or county commission within the proposed taxing boundary.
  - Limited to ORS 190 organizations that are direct recipients of federal transit funding.
- This legislation would grant eligible ORS 190 organizations the authorities and powers of transportation districts, as defined within ORS 267.
- COIC's board of directors would be authorized to serve as the governance body of the property tax funded system.
- Only upon action by both the COIC board of directors and the city council(s)/board of commissioners within a proposed taxing boundary, would COIC proceed in proposing a voter approved operating levy. The election process would mirror and align with the existing processes for establishing an operating levy within a district.
- Levy must be expended within the geographic area approved through the vote, and can only be used for the purposes specified in the measure.
- Allows authority to propose different rates in different communities, allowing for the tailoring of service levels and local investment to align with community needs and priorities.

Furthermore, the City recognizes and welcome the benefits associated with the concept including:

- Protects current coordinated system from fragmenting into multiple transit districts which could be an outcome if one City needed property tax before other Cities were ready.
- Retains one government entity with one management staff and one board, creating economies of scale, and allowing for local representation from each community.
- Promotes regional cooperation of equitable use of dollars for transit instead of a competitive environment and turf issues.
- Assures development of each city's transit aligns with each city's plan for development.
- Allows each city to choose funding tool for transit including but not limited to property tax.

The City Council of Culver sends a letter to the Oregon legislature in support of HB 2745B for the 2017 legislative session. This change will benefit Central Oregon regionally while maintaining control at the local level to expand transit funding at the appropriate time when each community sees fit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna L. McCormack". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Donna McCormack  
City Recorder/Manager