

I am writing in favor of the Statewide Transit Payroll Tax as a source of revenue to add badly needed funds in support of public transit throughout the State. Public transit is a vital spoke in the overall transportation wheel.

One particular concern is that there is no explicit language in the current bill that benefits low income, elderly or disabled folks. I strongly support low income fare subsidy, Community Based Transportation services for older adults and people with disabilities. These programs have been traditionally funded through the Special Transportation Fund(STF). Funds for these programs should be carved out of revenue from the Transit Payroll Tax.

The bottom line is:

- STF resources are declining
- the number of people who could use STF services will almost double by 2025
- the current transportation package has no dedicated increases to STF funds

Something needs to be done or we will be in a crisis situation soon.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony.

Sincerely,

Steve Satterlee

Board Member

Ride Connection