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June 6, 2017

Senator Lee Beyer, Co-Chair
Representative Caddy McKeown, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization

Dear Co-Chairs and Committee Members,

As you are keenly aware, transportation funding in the State of Oregon has always been a struggle. Recently the Rogue Valley Transportation District (RVT) worked proactively with our community to fund service enhancements. In May of last year, the District was able to pass a funding measure to bring back vital services that were reduced in 2014 due to termination of a grant. Although this has given us a reprieve for 5 years, we have experienced a state funding reduction of 9% that supported our elderly and disabled services.

House Bill 2017-3 will bring stable funding to RVT. It will enable us to make our existing service more reliable for the long term and will allow us to develop new service that is badly needed in our community. RVT has an obligation to serve our transit dependent riders and ensure that seniors, people with disabilities and our lower income neighbors have access to social and medical services. In addition, our community is relying on us to support economic development by providing safe and efficient transportation to businesses, employment centers, schools and housing. Frequent and reliable service promotes a healthy lifestyle change that facilitates livability in our community. The transportation package doesn't just address public transit but funds sidewalks and bike paths, the first and last mile of most transit trips.

On behalf of the RVT Board of Directors, we encourage the support of HB 2017-3. Please feel free to contact our General Manager, Julie Brown if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tonia Moro", is written over a horizontal line.

Tonia Moro, RVT Chair