

June 7, 2017

To: Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization

Elders in Action is a nonprofit that advocates, educates and provides direct service for low income, vulnerable older adults in Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington Counties. Daily we receive calls from seniors who cannot afford or do not have adequate access to public transportation.

We urge the Joint Committee to emphasize, in the funding package contained in HB 2017, subsidies for low income transit fares and support for organizations like Ride Connection that offer a variety of transportation options to older adults and people with disabilities. Ride connection and its partners provide over 500,000 rides and support over 2,000 individuals with training and access to public transportation each year.

We encourage the committee to consider increasing funds in the State Special Transportation fund as these funds are critical to providing older adults and people with disabilities with the transportation support they need to remain independent.

Thank you for your work on HB 2017. We look forward to the passage of a transportation funding package that enhances transportation services for our vulnerable populations.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bernstein
Executive Director
Elders in Action