

Dear Joint Interim Committee on the First Special Session 2020,

I am writing in favor of passing LC 43, which will allow transit agencies to utilize the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) for the purpose of maintaining transit services. Agencies across the state have seen unprecedented ridership and revenue losses. When the STIF was passed in 2017, the Legislature could not have contemplated such an event like COVID-19. The program was to expand transit access throughout the State of Oregon, but now we must acknowledge that simply the continuance of services is the pressing need.

I have given verbal testimony to the Joint Committee on Transportation on behalf of ATU 757, along with various transit agencies asking for this flexibility. Both sides of the Labor/Management relationship see the value of this fix. It will allow the gains in ridership that have been made over decades to be continued. Setbacks in this time will only make a more sustainable future more difficult to achieve. Agencies need funding to maintain or expand personnel that will enable the continued enhanced cleaning protocols, maintain adequate social distancing on buses and trains by running more frequency, and cope with declining fare and payroll tax revenues. The riding public must trust that Transit Agencies are maintaining high standards of cleanliness so Transit can continue to be a viable option as the state opens up from Stay at Home orders.

Please pass this fix expeditiously, and direct the Oregon Transportation Commission/ODOT to enable a streamlined process for transit agencies to utilize these funds for the purpose of maintaining or restoring lost transit service.

Respectfully,

Bill Bradley
Springfield, OR

--

Bill Bradley

Executive Board Officer

[Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757](#)

1801 NE Couch St, Portland, OR 97232

Office: [503-232-9144](tel:503-232-9144) | [Cell: 815-319-2440](tel:815-319-2440)