

Lori Stegmann
Multnomah County Commissioner
Representing East County, District 4



3/23/2021
Joint Committee on Transportation
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chairs Beyer and McClain, Vice-Chairs Boquist and Noble, and members of the committee,

I am writing today in support of SB 332, which would greatly ease the burden of transportation poverty in East Multnomah County.

East Multnomah County is plagued by a lack of transit infrastructure and is in great need of a higher level of investment. The farther east a person lives, the less frequent service there is. Additionally more residents in my district are transit dependent and often have longer commutes. And with the housing crisis over the past decade we have seen more families relocate to East County in search of affordable housing.

Requiring service minimums would benefit East County families greatly. Our community seems to face a continuous dilemma. To prove the need for service, there needs to be an increase in ridership. But due to the lack of reliable and frequent service, many people are forced to find alternative means of transportation. This loop has resulted in delayed investments in transit service, because the raw data doesn't exist, even though our community has voiced their support and desire for increased services.

I believe that SB 322 will ignite a needed change to provide minimum service options for transit in East Multnomah County. I hope I can count on your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lori Stegmann".

Commissioner Lori Stegmann, Multnomah County District 4