

From:

Clifford Phillip Eiffler Rodriguez

Email:

cpeiffler@gmail.com

Location:

Salem

Submitted written testimony to the Joint Committee on Transportation for the 6/4 Roadshow Hearing:

Regional transit.

Rail.

Transit mobility throughout Oregon.

No freeway expansions.

Living in Salem and mid-valley, I'm appalled at the lack of investment by the state into connecting communities.

Instead ODOT continues a policy of trying to develop freeway expansions that run into the billions while leaving people stuck at home.

I'll highlight the power and possibility of one such trip.

Last fall, on a now defunct regional line, my child and I were able to leave in the morning after catching a Cherriots bus to the downtown transit center. In all, the trip to Lincoln City and back (the very same evening, because as with all things transit, frequency matters) cost us a whopping \$16.20.

While we have access to a car, the cost would have been nearly comparable but the ability to get to the coast stress free and back, on transit, and with reliable frequency was amazing. It saddens me to know that the Tillamook Transit District no longer has the resources to run that line.

And that's the big problem around Oregon. We are the precipe of making generational decisions and state lawmakers are throwing their weight behind some bigger freeways? SHAME.

We have such low hanging fruit, from frequent runs to wine country to PDX to connections from Salem, south to Albany, Corvallis and Eugene which include two of our largest university bases.

Build for the future. Invest in regional transit from intercity connections to HSR. These are the investments that will pay dividends for generations of Oregonians.

One more thing. I would love to see a big push towards subsidized fares for everyone living in Oregon.

Imagine how transformative a free transit pass made available to Oregonians, regardless of income, that let you take any city or regional line free of cost.

Stop investing in cars. INVEST IN OREGONIANS.