



June 5, 2024

Good evening, Co-Chairs McClain and Garsek and members of the Joint Transportation Committee.

My name is Julie Wilcke Pilmer, CEO of Ride Connection. We are a private non-profit and our mission is to link accessible, responsive transportation alternatives with community and individual need.

We are a network of human service transportation partners, social service agencies, non-profit organizations and providers that support the unmet needs of older adults, people with disabilities, and those that have been historically marginalized by socio-economic status, race or ethnicity.

Human service transportation most commonly refers to door-to-door demand response, shuttle services (i.e. shuttles to grocery stores or culturally specific meal sites), volunteer programs, and travel training.

Collectively we provided 1.3 million rides last year, which includes non-emergent medical transportation and taught 150+ individuals to ride the bus.

The transit systems we have in our region allow our community members to be included in all aspects of life. Funding human service transportation options allows all community members to not just survive but thrive.

We thank you for the transit funding received through HB2017. Key initiatives we were able to implement are:

- **Adding new partners:** Centro Cultural and Asian Health and Service Center, which enhances cultural inclusivity in our services.
- **Accessible Bus Stops:** Ensuring all community members can safely access transportation.
- **Deviated First-Mile/Last-Mile Services:** Improving connectivity and convenience for users.
- **Purchasing Electric Vans:** Supports climate change initiatives.

Our partnerships have evolved and continue to grow to support all community members, especially those that have been silenced by oppression and therefore not included. We work to include and engage those that have been under supported and underserved.

Our network needs additional funding to keep up with the growing costs of providing services and the demand for this vital piece of transit in our communities. We are committed to working with you to pass a funding package in 2025.

Transit is a vital part of Oregon's transportation system. Thank you for taking the time to travel throughout Oregon and listen to constituents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Wilcke Pilmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

Julie Wilcke Pilmer
CEO
Ride Connection