

Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek, committee members,

My name is Samantha Hernandez and I am a resident of NE Portland. As a transit-dependent person, I strongly urge you to invest in expanding equitable and reliable access to public transportation. I constantly take the Line 8 bus to go grocery shopping, attend doctor's appointments, and go to work. Many of my neighbors also depend on public transit to complete everyday tasks. I live right next to an affordable housing complex and witness families, elders, and disabled folks take public transportation daily. In these unprecedented times of inflation and economic instability, it is important now more than ever that public transit is made more accessible. It is very difficult to budget for a car note and car insurance, especially for low-income folks. Many Portlanders like myself are depending on public transit to save money. The 2025 transportation package should include funds for expanding equitable and reliable access to public transit, including safety programs and decarbonization of our public transit fleet to reduce greenhouse gases.

Best,  
Samantha Hernandez