

Dear Joint Committee on Transportation,

We are writing to express the transportation needs of the communities that we serve. Coalición Fortaleza is a culturally-empowered women of color-led community based organization. We are grounded in our fierce love for our Latinx and indigenous communities of the Rogue Valley and we are re-imagining new solutions for our people, Madre Tierra and our future generations.

Through our advocacy work with our low-income, Latinx, and BIPOC clients we have discovered:

- The 2023-2025 STIF Low Income Bus Pass Program has allowed our community members to meet their basic necessities such as getting to and from work, taking their children to school, going grocery shopping, and getting medical treatment. Programs like these allow us to reach people that if it wasn't for the bus system, they would have no other option but to walk to these locations.
- We want to suggest that RVTD invests in starting a DUI prevention community rideshare program. We have seen programs like this be successful in other Oregon cities, such as Eugene.
- The RVTD system is effective, however it does not reach certain neighborhoods or areas in parts of our valley. This means our community members must walk more than a mile for a bus stop to then reach their destination.
- Lack of language access creates a challenge for our community members in understanding how the bus system works.
- Our elders have expressed that RVTD increasing the utilization of technology to access the bus system has created a barrier for them. Most of our elders do not work with technology the way most people do, making them feel incompetent.
- There is a lack of information regarding RVTD programming and assistance. Our community has expressed not knowing where to access free bus passes. We are actively trying to change that by providing free bus passes thanks to the 2023-2025 STIF Low Income Bus Pass Program.
- Our community comes from various different towns and cities with different transportation systems. Our people have expressed the wish to see different forms of transportations, aside from buses, to be adapted to our valley. Examples of this are, subways, combis, peceras, an RVTD cab system, and monorails.

Thank you for taking our insights into consideration,



Diana Ramos Alonzo
Organizational Wellbeing Manager



Celinés Garcia
Community Wealthbuilding Organizer