



PLANNING DIVISION

216 SE 4th ST, Pendleton, OR 97801, (541) 278-6252

Email: planning@umatillacounty.gov

COMMUNITY &
BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT

August 30, 2024

LAND USE
PLANNING,
ZONING AND
PERMITTING

Dear Honorable Co-Chair Sen. Chris Gorsek and Co-Chair Sen. Susan McLain and all members of the Oregon Transit Association Joint Committee on Transportation:

CODE
ENFORCEMENT

SOLID WASTE
COMMITTEE

Umatilla County is the most populous county within ODOT's Region 5, with a population of over 81,000. Umatilla County supports public transit operations and facilities throughout the County and acts as a Qualified Entity within the Oregon Department of Transportation's STIF program; supporting over twenty various projects within Umatilla County and throughout ODOT's Region 5.

SMOKE
MANAGEMENT

GIS AND
MAPPING

Reliable fixed-route public transit options can transform small rural communities. It provides residents with dependable rides to-and-from their jobs, to-and-from medical appointments, shopping in town and so much more. In some communities here in Eastern Oregon, you may not have a grocery store or a doctor's office nearby and the closest one could be two towns over. For those who don't have a car or can not drive public transit is one of the only reliable and existing options to reach places such as these.

RURAL
ADDRESSING

LIAISON,
NATURAL
RESOURCES &
ENVIRONMENT

PUBLIC TRANSIT

Umatilla County is proud to support so many public transit service providers that help keep our community connected. ODOT funding through the STIF, STIF Discretionary and Program 5310 is what allows us to operate these programs at the capacity that we do, however there are still gaps in funding that the County and the providers we support must work to fill every year in order to prevent a stop in service.

I would strongly encourage the Joint Committee on Transportation to diversify the revenue streams to include more than just the DMV Fees, Gas Tax and Motor Carriers.

Respectfully,

Charlet Hotchkiss
Planner I & Interim Umatilla County Public Transit Coordinator