

Good evening co-chairs Gorsek & McClain, and members of the committee. My name is Hal DeShow, I live in Bend, I'm a bike commuter, a teacher and a board member of my local neighborhood district. I'm here because I want a public transit system in Central Oregon that gets working folks to and from their jobs each day.

We are a rapidly growing community that is running into major congestion problems. The data tells us that building more roads just leads to more traffic. My personal solution is to get out of my car and onto my bike. I've been biking to and from work almost every day for the last 6 years. It's wonderful; biking makes me happy, I save money by not driving, and I am helping my fellow Central Oregonians by making space on the roads for those who need it.

However, my bike commute runs into a big problem every winter. I've crashed on icy roads too many times to risk it again. So what can I do? Drive my car in the creeping traffic jam that takes 30 minutes to get me home (compared to 15 minutes biking)? I would LOVE to take the bus, that would be a safe, climate friendly solution that once again helps reduce congestion. But that is impossible, because Cascades East Transit only runs til 5:30pm, and I don't get off work that early. Let me restate this; it is 100% impossible for ANYONE in Central Oregon who gets off work after 5:30pm to use public transit.

Therefore, I am here today to ask you to increase the funding for public transit in Central Oregon by increasing the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund. I will happily divert a few dollars from my paycheck in return for a functional bus system. We need enough money to have buses and drivers that can get anyone where they need to go, whenever they need to get there.

Thank you,  
Hal DeShow  
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