

Good evening everyone,

For the record, my name is Cassie Wilson. While I typically interact with you all through my job, tonight I wanted to share with you why I do this work.

I grew up in Boring, where I had no access to transportation options aside from my mom driving me. I had a lot of anxiety about learning to drive and the responsibility of having my life and the lives of those around me in my hands. Eventually, I realized that without getting my license I wasn't sure how I would finish college, get a job, or ever move out. My limited access to transportation limited my access to fully participating in society.

At the same time I was learning to drive, my mom decided to stop driving due to her worsening eyesight. While relying on SSI's below-poverty-level income, I had to buy pedal extensions which cost over \$300, and a wheelchair lift which cost over \$6000, which was greater than my annual income. I could only afford it because of the COVID-19 stimulus checks and my parents covering my other basic needs.

My mom lives with chronic health conditions that require her to regularly see her doctors. I became the transportation option she depended on. While experiencing caregiver burnout, I reached out to the county and learned their only transportation service is a volunteer program that is underfunded, understaffed and could not help us. Fortunately Sandy's medical ride program could. Still, my mom has no other options for transportation for non-medical purposes. She is one of the 30% of Oregonians who can't or don't drive.

It's also worth noting that driving is physically exhausting for me and on weeks like this where I'm driving all over the state for work, I am quite literally in pain as we speak.

My family and others like mine around the state are counting on significant investments in public and paratransit, so I hope you will support a meaningful increase in the STIF.

I also do this work because my first time being in an evacuation zone during the 2020 wildfires was terrifying, and all I could think about were the statistics of disabled people left behind in climate disasters. It's essential we act with the courage this crisis requires by reducing transportation emissions.

I look forward to our continued collaboration as we work to develop a transportation package that serves the needs of all Oregonians, especially those of us who have been historically disadvantaged by the status quo.

Thank you.