

September 27, 2024

Everardo Lopez Pizano

Centro Cultural

Dear Joint Committee on Transportation,

For the record, my name is Everardo Lopez Pizano, and I am a resident of Washington County. I am writing to express my strong support for increased funding for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF).

As the Food Program Manager at Centro Cultural, I have witnessed firsthand the tremendous impact our transportation department has had in assisting seniors within our community. Thanks to the services provided by Centro and Ride Connection, seniors are able to access the essential programs and services offered at Centro Cultural and Centro Mercado.

Many in our community, especially seniors and individuals with disabilities, rely heavily on these transportation services to reach us and receive vital assistance, including food from Centro Mercado. Without this transportation, a large number of our community members would be unable to leave their homes to access the help they need.

Centro Mercado plays a critical role in supplying food to our diverse community in Washington County. Our transportation team is crucial in both picking up donations and delivering food bags to seniors and individuals with disabilities who are unable to travel to Centro Mercado.

Increased STIF funding for our partners, Ride Connection and TriMet, would directly benefit Centro by enabling us to continue and enhance the services we provide.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of increased STIF funding.

Sincerely,

Everardo Lopez Pizano

Food Program Manager, Centro Cultural

Washington County Resident