

Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek, and Committee Members,

My name is Debi Stromberg. I recently moved to Milwaukie, but had lived in Happy Valley for 26 years prior. Twenty of those years in Happy Valley were spent as a youth leader for Creator Lutheran on Sunnyside as well as an immigrant support advocate; and 10 of those years I was a C-TEC Youth services provider for Clackamas High School as well. In all of those roles, I found ongoing barriers of transportation needs in our low income and immigrant families and youth who want to work, attend CCC or another local colleges, and contribute to their community by volunteering, but were stymied by intermittent public transportation access or living too far away or apart to make bus service a safe option.

I ask that you search for diversified revenue sources of funding that is fair for low or fixed-income families, but which increase public transportation options, giving all Oregonians an opportunity to thrive! An investment in a fair and sustainable way to fund our transportation system is an investment in a stronger community! Building compact, climate-friendly neighborhoods and supporting public transportation so that low income youth and families can connect to jobs and economic opportunities without needing to own a car is a win for everyone!

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely, Debi Stromberg