

TO: Joint Interim Committee on Transportation Funding  
FROM: Ben Gurewitz, Disability Rights Oregon  
DATE: August 25, 2025  
RE: LC 2 Support

Dear Chair Co-Chair Wagner, Co-Chair Fahey, Co-Vice Chair Bonham and Co-Vice Chair Drazan,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on LC 2. For Oregonians with disabilities, a strong public transportation system is a lifeline to independence—the ability to meet friends, get groceries and medications, access medical care, go to work, or simply visit the mall.

Many of our clients do not have the luxury of choosing between different modes of transportation. For them, public transit is not just an option—it's the only option. And even then, it's far from easy. A trip that might take 20 to 30 minutes by car can take two hours or more for someone with a disability. That's time spent wheeling or walking to a bus stop, navigating multiple transfers, and finally reaching their destination.

While this package is not perfect, it represents an important step forward. It will help people with disabilities maintain their independence by preserving essential transit services. Disability Rights Oregon supports the proposed 0.1% increase in the STIF payroll tax to prevent future service cuts.

This cannot be the end of the conversation. We look forward to working with the legislature to build a more inclusive, accessible, and sustainable transportation system for all Oregonians.

#### About Disability Rights Oregon

Since 1977 Disability Rights Oregon has been the State's Protection and Advocacy System.<sup>1</sup> We are authorized by Congress to protect, advocate, and enforce the rights of people with disabilities under the U.S. Constitution and Federal and State laws, investigate abuse and neglect of people with disabilities, and “pursue administrative, legal, and other appropriate remedies”.<sup>2</sup> We are also mandated to “educate policymakers” on matters related to people with disabilities.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See ORS 192.517.

<sup>2</sup> See 42 U.S.C. § 15041 et seq; 42 U.S.C. § 10801 et seq.

<sup>3</sup> See 42 U.S. Code § 15043(a)(2)(L).

If you have any questions regarding DRO's position on this legislation, please call Ben Gurewitz at 971-806-7908 or email him at [bgureiwitz@droregon.org](mailto:bgureiwitz@droregon.org).