

May 9, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez,

We, the undersigned community-based organizations and members of the TV Highway Equity Coalition write in support of the request for \$50M in state bonding for the Tualatin Valley (TV) Highway Bus Rapid Transit Project. This project will bring critical safety and transit service improvements to a region and community in dire need of investment.

TV Highway is a former farm-to-market road that has transitioned into a major regional transportation connector in Washington County. It supports the movement of goods and people through Beaverton, Aloha, Hillsboro, Cornelius and Forest Grove. The corridor is also home to some of the region and the state's most racially and ethnically diverse communities, many of whom do not have access to a car.

The area around TV Highway is also very fast growing. The population is projected to grow up to 38 percent by 2040. Investments in faster and safer transit is essential for keeping up with population growth and that new housing developments are connected properly to transportation, especially affordable and low-income housing.

Our organizations have advocated for years for a safer TV Highway, better access to transit, and more dignified transit rider experience. TV Highway is served by the second highest ridership line in the entire TriMet system (Line 57). The community along this corridor relies on the Line 57 to get to work, medical appointments and grocery shopping. Riders experience slow commute times, unsafe crossing conditions, and stops without a shelter or adequate lighting. The fatal crash rate of TV Highway is twice the regional average and more than half of the fatal crashes between 2017-2021 involved pedestrians.

This project would bring Frequent Express bus service to TV Highway, giving riders a reliable, fast and comfortable ride with buses arriving every 12 minutes. The project includes covered bus shelters, better lighting and real-time arrival information at all stations. Every bus station will be paired with a crossing and four major intersections will be rebuilt entirely for pedestrian and driver safety.

The local governments of Metro, TriMet, Washington County, and the Cities of Beaverton, Hillsboro, Forest Grove, and Cornelius are at the table to provide \$100M to TV Highway, 1/3 of the total cost of \$300M. The state's investment of \$50M will close the gap required to leverage

\$150M in federal dollars. TV Highway would see drastically improved travel conditions, delay, and safety for all travelers along a major transportation connector in Washington County.

There is strong partnership between the local governments and the community on this project to improve a state highway in dire need of investment – we need the state’s help to bring the TV Highway transit project across the finish line.

Sincerely,

