

Submitter: Kyenne Williams

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

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

I depend on public transit as a native Oregonian, one who has repeatedly chosed to live in Portland where Trimet makes my life possible. I'm writing today in support of the increased transit funding and the STIF program in HB 2025 - the funding for the STIF program in this package will help prevent significant cuts to public transit service across Oregon.

Even before I qualified as an "Honored Citizen" with lower fares, I've found freedom riding the bus. As a public employee with Multnomah County, the City of Portland, and other agencies, I used transit daily: to get to work, to get home, to run errands and attend cultural events, to get to medical appointments and visit clients of programs I oversaw. This commonality with a wide cross section of Portland citizens is often a point of connection and even... celebration. We not only value, but depend on riding the bus.

Riding the bus is often how I meet and connect with people - neighbors, friends, and strangers. Riding the bus also allowed me to afford to buy a house because I wasn't spending hundreds of dollars every month on maintenance, insurance, gas and a loan. Public transit makes my life possible, exciting, and an adventure. Losing Trimet (either by service cuts or through increased fares on a fixed income) would devastate my life: I would likely have to move, and lose access to the library, farmers markets, community events and my freedom to move freely. HB 2025 is a life maker!

While the funding proposed in this package is not enough to provide the additional transit service I would like to see, it will prevent Oregonians like me from being stranded without the transportation access I depend on. Please support HB 2025.

Sincerely,

Kyenne Williams  
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