

Submitter: Allison Paley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Session Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3991

My name is Allison Paley, I'm a Portland resident and regular TriMet rider, and I'm here on behalf of myself and my coworkers to urge you to pass this bill and continue to work toward increasing transit funding in the next session.

The bill you're discussing today proposes a 1% increase to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund. If this bill doesn't pass, my household needs to buy another car. Many of my coworkers would be out of a job.

When you can't afford a car--and let's be clear, data released in May of this year shows that more than half of Oregon households can't afford their cost of living already--Transit determines everything about how you live your life. You can't get a job if Transit won't get you there, and that means losing out on opportunities that could lift you out of poverty. You can't live anywhere Transit doesn't reach. If transit's not running you can't get to a hospital or a doctor if you need one. I have a coworker with type one diabetes. Incredibly kind, hard worker, pays her taxes same as everyone else. Not being able to take the bus to get access to medication could kill her.

If this bill fails, TriMet is going to see catastrophic cuts, including an end to service after 9pm. My coworkers won't be able to get home at the end of their shifts. They will have to find new jobs where they can. These are people who literally cannot afford to miss a paycheck. Pass this bill for them.

But also keep working on this. The 1% increase buys time, but it doesn't balance the budget. I would urge this legislature to continue working on an expanded Transportation bill, one that will prevent the need for future cuts and maybe even allow for service improvement.

I do not mind paying more in taxes for services I am actually receiving. It's certainly less expensive than buying another car.