



Co-Chairs Fahey and Wagner, Co-Vice Chairs Drazen and Bonham, and members of the committee.

My name is Jameson Auten and I am the CEO of Lane Transit District. Thank you for your leadership in supporting Oregonians with Statewide Transportation Improvement Funds, or STIF. STIF funds enable both rural and urban transit in Lane County. This is critical because more and more Oregonians, particularly in our rural communities, are struggling to make ends meet.

The recent 3rd quarter economic forecast is sobering and requires strong leadership to address current and future challenges. LTD will continue to evaluate not only how we spend tax dollars- but the outcomes they produce. Historically ridership was the only or strongest measure of success. We think it's ridership AND.... LTD is choosing to work with the communities within Lane County to measure the impacts of transit on Health, Housing, Workforce, and Educational outcomes. By partnering with our local stakeholders, customers, and the non-transit riding public, we are in the process of updating our strategic plan and our long-term plan to plan and implement services that meet the many needs of our community.

Over 10% of our STIF allocation is spent in Lane County's rural communities. The Diamond Express, connects the Cities of Oakridge West Fir to urban centers. We are pursuing making a better connection to Lane Community College on that service. In South Lane County LTD is starting a new service to connect 3 rural communities- two of which that had never had service previously to work and health opportunities. Lastly, in Florence, by adding additional service there, ridership more than doubled to over 13,000 riders a year. Using STIF discretionary dollars, LTD will begin studying how a new transit hub- a convenient customer focused mobility center could- spur more ridership and opportunities to access services, jobs, and education in Eugene.

While we are doing this work now, access to more transit services in Lane County will help more Oregonians across Lane County, and the state, meet the economic challenges to come. Thank you again for your leadership and the opportunity to share a few STIF driven opportunities in Lane County. I urge you to continue to fund this much needed transit.



Jameson Auten
Chief Executive Officer
Lane Transit District

