

Submitter: Franklin Ouchida

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Co-Chair Gorsek, Co-Chair McLain, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Franklin Ouchida, and I am a quadriplegic, full-time power wheelchair user living in Milwaukie Clackamas County, Oregon (97267). I depend on TriMet LIFT Paratransit for my daily transportation needs, including doctor's appointments, grocery shopping, visiting friends in the hospital, attending church, and as well as I hosting Oregon Wheelchair Hiking events that affect many wheelchair user each week.

These services are essential for my mental health, physical rehabilitation, and social and recreational life, enabling me to stay connected and engaged in my community despite my mobility challenges. The proposed funding for transit in the transportation package falls short of what is needed. Without increased state funding, public transportation providers like TriMet will be forced to make significant service cuts, which would have a devastating impact on my life.

TriMet LIFT is my lifeline—it allows me to manage my healthcare, maintain my independence, and participate in activities that give my life meaning, like leading wheelchair hiking events that inspire others with disabilities. If these services were reduced or eliminated, I would face immense barriers to accessing medical care, obtaining groceries, or seeing friends and family. This would not only isolate me but also worsen my mental and physical health, as I'd be confined to my home, unable to engage in the activities that keep me resilient and hopeful.

I respectfully urge you to increase the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) to 0.3% by 2028 to prevent these harmful cuts to transit services. I am willing to pay an additional two pennies of every \$10 I earn to ensure reliable transit remains available for myself and others who depend on it. Public transportation is more than just a ride—it's my connection to a fulfilling life, and I ask for your support in protecting it. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Franklin Ouchida
Milwaukie
Clackamas County, OR 97267