

Submitter: Scott Gates

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 am writing in support of HB 2025 and the increase in transit funding. The increased funding for the STIF program in this package will help prevent significant cuts to transit service across Oregon, especially for our most-vulnerable neighbors.

As a staff member for Ride Connection, I see firsthand how STIF dollars connect vulnerable Oregonians to work, medical appointments, food shopping, school and their communities. For example, Ride Connection leverages STIF dollars in partnership with Washington County to provide a popular shuttle service in rural parts of the County. These shuttles connect people who otherwise would have no affordable transit alternatives.

The funding proposed in this package is not enough to allow many transit providers, like Ride Connection, to expand service to meet demands from Oregonians. Some cuts will still be necessary. But this increase in transit funding will prevent tens of thousands of Oregonians from being stranded without the transportation access they depend on.

Please support HB 2025.

Scott Gates