

## HB 4008 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Transportation

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**Action Date:** 02/16/26

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.  
(Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 5-2-0-0

**Yeas:** 5 - Evans, Gamba, Mannix, McLain, Nathanson

**Nays:** 2 - Boshart Davis, Helfrich

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/11, 2/16

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure establishes the Transit Funding Task Force, directs the task force to study issues related to sustainably funding transit in Oregon, and requires a report to transportation committees no later than December 15, 2026. It specifies that the task force appointments will be made by the presiding officer and minority leaders, with all legislators and the Oregon Department of Transportation representative serving as nonvoting members. The measure declares an emergency, effective on its passage.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Balance of proposed task force membership
- Changes in transit ridership during the past decade
- Every community has people who need transit
- Focus on long-term sustainable funding
- Financial situation of transit agencies nationwide
- Potential cost savings for transit providers
- Potential topics for the task force to consider
- Whether the subject would be better dealt with by a workgroup

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment replaces the measure.

#### BACKGROUND:

Oregon is served by a number of large and small public transit operators across the state, some operated as stand-alone agencies and others operated by city, county, or Tribal governments. Public transportation helps the nearly one-quarter of Oregonians who do not drive or have access to a car get to medical appointments, school, and other necessary services. Prior to the passage of House Bill 2017 (2017), the state provided little direct funding for transit operations or capital funding. That measure established the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF), which provides direct funding for every transit provider in the state, as well as competitive grants, through revenue raised by a one-mill (0.1 percent) statewide employee payroll tax.

Transit systems nationwide have struggled to maintain services since the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020–2022. While ridership has rebounded in many places, in most it still sits below pre-pandemic levels, due in part to continued working from home. As a result, many transit agencies have been forced to consider and institute service cuts, including in Oregon, where options that had grown since the institution of the STIF program have been eliminated.

## **HB 4008 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

House Bill 4008 A creates a 22-member Transit Funding Task Force to determine the level of funding needed to maintain adequate, safe, reliable, and accessible transit statewide while also allowing for population growth over time, and to explore possible funding mechanisms to meet that level of need. The members are to include four legislators from both parties and chambers, numerous stakeholders appointed by the presiding officers, and staff support provided by the Legislative Revenue Office.