



The Community for Positive Aging

The Next Chapter of The Hollywood Senior Center

February 5, 2026

To: House Committee on Transportation

RE: Please Support HB 4085: Expanding transportation access for aging Oregonians

Dear Chair McLain, Vice-Chair Boshart Davis and Members of the Committee:

The Community for Positive Aging (founded as the Hollywood Senior Center in 1973) strongly supports HB 4085, which would expand transportation access for older adults across our state. We serve adults 55 and older in Portland through no-cost programs, peer-run services, and compassionate support. Our mission is creating a healthier, more inclusive Portland where older adults maintain dignity, connection, and independence.

Transportation remains one of the biggest barriers to independence for our community members. When driving becomes unsafe or impossible, older adults face isolation from friends and family, missed medical appointments, inability to access groceries and essential services, and diminished quality of life. Current options fall short due to limited availability, high costs, and confusing transit systems.

For older adults, autonomous vehicles mean maintaining independence without relying on family or limited paratransit. The ability to request rides independently preserves self-determination. Reliable transportation means healthcare access, grocery shopping, community programs, and social connections that combat isolation.

Furthermore, Oregon's roads are dangerous, and the data is stark:

- Oregon had the eighth highest traffic fatality rate in the U.S. in 2024
- Traffic fatalities in Oregon increased 51 percent from 2014 to 2024
- Most traffic collisions result from human error—distraction, fatigue, and impairment

1820 NE 40TH AVE P 503.288.8303 www.communityfpa.org
PORTLAND, OR 97212 F 503.288.8305 staff@communityfpa.org

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Autonomous vehicles can serve people with diverse mobility needs and offer a new welcomed mode of safe and accessible transportation. We've seen the benefits of autonomous vehicles supporting older adults and those with disabilities in San Francisco and other US cities. We are excited to bring this service to our community to improve access to safe and reliable transportation.

We strongly urge you to consider voting in support of HB 4085.

Sincerely,

Amber Kern-Johnson
Executive Director
Community for Positive Aging

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