



February 10, 2026

House Committee on Transportation
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair McLain, Vice Chair Boshart Davis, Vice Chair Gamba, and Members of the House Committee on Transportation,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 4008. This bill raises the urgent issue of the need for transit funding and establishes a structure for discussing and developing policy to address that need.

Portland's transportation system depends on strong transit service to support efficient, sustainable and equitable movement and access for people and goods. The transit service cuts that are already planned in Portland communities are going to make it harder for people to reach jobs, school, healthcare, and other important life needs, and will mean our streets will have to carry more vehicles as people shift to driving. The longer we wait to find a way to sustainably fund a robust transit system, the more people will shift away from the increasingly unreliable transit option to private vehicles, with a spiraling negative impact on Portland's economy and our city goals around economic development, sustainability, and equity.

Not only does Portland's transportation system depend on TriMet's functionality, the city has been a long-term financial partner to TriMet vis-a-vis investment in light rail, bus rapid transit, and other capital projects with transit priority and access. The city also owns Portland Streetcar, the largest modern streetcar system in the US, making the City the 3rd largest transit provider in Oregon. The Streetcar is part of downtown Portland's urban fabric, and its ongoing success is a critical part of central city recovery.

Transit is also a critical element of our regional and local land use and development vision and plans. Without a strong transit system, Portland cannot thrive.



We encourage you to support HB 4008, which will frame up this critical issue and move us toward thoughtful solutions.

Thank you for considering this important issue.

Sincerely,

Councilor Olivia Clark

Chair, Transportation and
Infrastructure Committee

Portland City Councilor, District 4

Councilor Angelita Morillo

Vice-Chair, Transportation and
Infrastructure Committee

Portland City Councilor, District 3