



Serving Older Adults in Deschutes,  
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February 28, 2017

House Committee on Transportation Policy  
Representative Caddy McKeown, Chair  
900 Court Street NE, Room 431  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 2745 – Transit Funding

Chair McKeown and Members of the Committee:

I am writing today to urge you to support the bill currently before the legislature, HB 2745, which will give voters in Central Oregon a choice on whether their areas should fund a public transit system.

Rapid growth in the number of older adults in Central Oregon will lead to greatly increased needs for expanded and enhanced public transportation services. Many assume that seniors who face mobility problems or must cease driving will be served by public transit and by special demand responsive transportation services. However, the current services do not come anywhere near meeting the mobility needs of state's aging population, especially in non-metro, more rural areas like Central Oregon. Meeting the challenging transportation of the senior population will only continue to grow.

A clarification to ORS190 offers a number of benefits to our Central Oregon Communities. It gives them local control -- each city can choose the appropriate level of service, funding amount, and tool for funding transit in their community. It maximizes efficiency, by retaining regional management for the transit system, minimizing costs and optimizing streamlined and convenient service. It drives economic development, helping local companies attract workers by giving employees a public transportation option that saves time and money. Some communities may choose to ask voters to support funding initiatives, and other communities may not be ready any time soon. Giving Central Oregon communities the option to seek transit funding from voters is important to our region.

So please, encourage the House Transportation Committee to move HB 2745 forward, and support its passage in this session. Thank you for giving local control of future transit initiatives into the hands of Central Oregon voters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jean M. McPherson".

Jean McPherson  
Operations Manager

