



June 5, 2017

Joint Transportation Preservation  
and Modernization Committee  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of the Lane Transit District (LTD) Board of Directors, I am writing to thank you for your consideration of the proposed transportation package. Throughout my career in construction and infrastructure, I have spent a lot of time thinking about roads and bridges. By driving our local roads, one can tell that our transportation system is beginning to fall apart. The longer we wait to fix it, the more expensive it will be to fix, which is why it is important that we act now. The LTD Board strongly supports the proposed transportation package and hopes you will support it as well.

As a career businessman, I would never write somebody a blank check and hope they spent my money wisely. As the President of LTD's Board, I would never ask for a blank check either. Before voting on the transportation package, I would like to share with you how LTD plans to invest the new resources that the proposed transportation package would provide.

Throughout the past several years the District has heard from the community about three specific services in which they want LTD to invest: increased frequency, better connectivity, and restoring the student transit pass. LTD plans to work with the community to create an investment plan that focuses on those three areas.

On many LTD routes, the bus comes only once every half hour. The community and local government partners have told us that they want better frequency to make traveling by bus more efficient and convenient. Together with the local government partners, the District has developed a regional Frequent Transit Network that identifies key corridors where buses should come at least every fifteen minutes at peak times. While LTD may not be able to fully fund the Frequent Transit Network, the District will target investments on the highest ridership corridors. For your reference, I have included a map of the Frequent Transit Network.

LTD will complete a full review of the bus system to improve efficiency and connectivity. With the results of that review, the District plans to reprioritize the current investments to better meet the needs of customers and make investments when and where it makes sense to expand or create new routes.

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The student transit pass, which was eliminated when the state cut funding for the program in 2011, was a very popular and effective way to help kids get to and from school, work, and afterschool activities. The LTD Board has directed staff to begin working with community partners to evaluate restoring the youth pass with new revenues from a state transportation bill. LTD's goal is to provide unlimited access to the 26,000 students in the service area in grades 6-12 to help them get to and from school and extra-curricular activities.

Finally, LTD has heard from legislators that they are concerned the proposed employee payroll tax may have a negative impact on low-income residents. In the adopted budget for the coming fiscal year, LTD will increase funding to the half-price fare program by 15 percent. The half-price fare program sells fares to non-profit service providers at a 50 percent reduction and those service providers distribute passes to their low-income clients in need of transportation. Staff also will be asked to work with area non-profits and service providers to do even more work on access and equity issues.

Thank you for your continued support of LTD. If you need anything or have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly or to LTD's General Manager, Aurora (A.J.) Jackson.

Sincerely,



Gary Wildish  
President, LTD Board of Directors

cc: Doug Barber, Sam Barber

Enclosure