



August 21, 2018

To: TriMet Board of Directors
PTIP Advisory Committee
Cc: Doug Kelsey, General Manager, TriMet
Re: New HB 2017 resources

As state legislators representing East Multnomah County, we are writing to give our perspective on TriMet's allocation of H.B. 2017 resources. We want to begin by stating our support for the efforts of The Rosewood Initiative, EPAP, OPAL, East Portland Land Use and Transportation Committee, and other organizations advocating to ensure East County receives an equitable share of H.B. 2017 funding.

While we recognize and applaud that TriMet's current proposal includes investments in East County, we also want to explain why we believe more investments are warranted:

1. **East County is big:** The approximate population for Portland east of I-205 and other East County municipalities is 302,000 residents and contains some of the fastest-growing areas in the state.
2. **East County has diverse needs:** East County has the greatest concentration of low income people in the Metro area, as well as large populations of people of color, immigrants, refugees, seniors, and people with disabilities—many who are reliant on public transit and have been recognized as traditionally marginalized populations.
3. **East County has opportunities:** The Columbia Corridor and the Troutdale Industrial Park provide living-wage jobs for East County residents. Amazon recently began hiring for 1,500 additional workers at its new \$180 million warehouse in Troutdale. These job centers would benefit from strong north/south transit connections.
4. **East County is underserved:** This area has historically been underserved by transit and other services. Under the current proposal, only two north/south routes (#73 on 122nd Ave. and #87 on 181st/182nd) will have frequent service.

Given these facts, we believe a greater focus on north/south service in East County would be good for our constituents and good for the region as a whole.

Longer operating times and **weekend service** will provide better access to employment opportunities in the Columbia Corridor. Many of our constituents don't work 9 to 5 Monday through Friday—they work off-hour shifts and weekends, and need transit throughout the week for work and personal needs. Currently, there is a 2.9-mile gap in bus service between 122nd Ave and 181st/182nd Aves on the weekends.

We are encouraged that the #81 is slated for a longer running time and shorter frequencies, but service is very limited in Troutdale on the weekends: the #81 still has no service on Saturdays and Sundays, and the #80 has a very limited limited span and hour-long frequency those days.

Frequent service on more north/south bus lines (such as the 148th Ave. line and #74) would give residents better access to east/west routes increasing their access to employment and to take care of personal matters. Reducing waits for transfers is imperative for residents who have children or medical issues, or when it is raining, snowing, or very hot.

We understand that even with H.B. 2017 funding, there are not enough resources to meet the entirety of the region's transit needs. However, we urge TriMet and its advisory committee to take into account East County's growth, diverse community needs, and history of neglect by regional leaders, and make serious investments in transit service in this area. Doing so will demonstrate commitment to serving those who are most in need of its service and who H.B. 2017 was intended to help.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson, S.D. 25



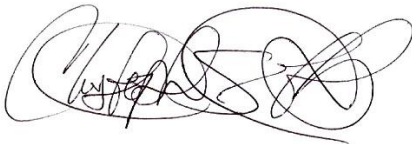
Representative Diego Hernandez, H.D. 47



Senator Michael Dembrow, S.D. 23



Representative Jeff Reardon, H.D. 48



Representative Chris Gorsek, H.D. 51



Representative Carla Piluso, H.D. 50