



August 29, 2018

TriMet HB2017 Transit Advisory Committee
c/o Tom Mills
1800 SW 1st Ave., Suite 300
Portland, OR 97201

RE: TriMet HB2017 Funding Allocation

Dear TriMet HB2017 Transit Advisory Committee,

Hillsboro School District would like to express its support for TriMet's proposed service improvements in Hillsboro and Washington County. We urge the HB2017 Advisory Committee to prioritize providing service and coverage in our community with this unprecedented funding opportunity.

The Hillsboro School District serves more than 20,000 students, pre-K through 12, in the greater Hillsboro community (includes North Plains and parts of Cornelius and Reedville/Aloha). We are the fourth-largest public school district in Oregon. Many of our students and families live in poverty without their own reliable transportation, and would greatly benefit from enhanced access to public transportation.

Washington County has been historically underserved by public transit compared to other areas in the region. The improvements in TriMet's latest proposal such as service increase to lines 48 and 57, and new service on Cornelius Pass Rd and Baseline are a good start, but they are not enough. The proposed plan leaves some of the most glaring transit needs in our community unmet. For example:

- Three of our four high schools in Hillsboro will continue to have either no or no meaningful transit service;
- The main Hillsboro library is left with the same once-an-hour and weekdays-only service; and
- Transit service for north-south travel continues to be lacking in our community.

The latest HB2017 proposal includes many worthwhile and noble objectives such as reduced fare for low income and student populations, as well as investment on cleaner fleet. However, these proposed benefits are of little or no value to our students and staff without actual service on the ground. Therefore, we urge the HB 2017 Advisory Committee to prioritize service and coverage in our growing community such that public transit is given the opportunity to become a meaningful form of transportation for our student and youth population.

Sincerely,

Mike Scott
Superintendent

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