



July 25, 2018

Attn: HB 2017 Transit Advisory Committee

RE: HB 2017 Special Transportation Infrastructure Funds (STIF)

The Multicultural Action Committee advises Multnomah County Aging, Disability, & Veterans Services Division on issues of importance to older adults, specifically addressing issues of equity, culturally responsive programming, and advocacy for unmet needs. The organizations represented by our group provide culturally specific programming and service for older adults under contract with Aging, Disability, & Veterans Services Division. The impacts of gentrification, including displacement from long-standing communities and natural support systems; increased burden for travel to participate in cultural, social, and family life; and social isolation, anxiety, and trauma are especially prevalent in the older adults we serve. We know that transportation access is vitally important for maintaining and well-being and continues to be an issue facing our community.

Aging, Disability, & Veterans Services Division conducted extensive community outreach in summer 2016 with our support. Of the nearly 500 people staff spoke with, 89% were racial, ethnic, or cultural minorities and 68% provided responses in language other than English. When asked “what’s important to you”, transportation elicited the greatest amount of the responses at 26% - more than nutrition, caregiver support, abuse prevention, or any other category. People with limited English were nearly twice as likely to indicate transportation coordination and resources as important compared to people responding in English. Every group we spoke with indicated that they need more transportation resources.

A plan currently exists in our region that details the projects that will help us meet the demand for services for seniors and people with disabilities. We support further implementation of the Coordinated Transportation Plan that was updated by TriMet in 2016 with assistance from the Special Transportation Fund Advisory Committee (STFAC).

We know that existing funding levels do not meet current demand, and with an increasingly diverse, older, and more disabled population, will certainly not meet future demand. Additional funds are needed to support the demand for service, preserve existing service, and fill the gap

in funding. There is a need for community transportation that enhances ADA service because while equally important, fixed route and ADA Paratransit do not meet the needs of all riders.

Thank you for your consideration,

Multicultural Action Committee

<https://multco.us/ads/multicultural-action-committee-mac>