



August 21, 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,

The Hillsboro Youth Advisory Council (YAC) 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 YAC is a group of high school students representing all four high schools and alternative schools in the Hillsboro School District. We focus on connecting youth with local government through policy work and engagement. Many of us rely on public transportation for our day to day travel including getting to school, sports, and extracurricular activities such as YAC. Lack of transit means often times we cannot participate in meaningful YAC events, such as attending City Council meetings, because there is not adequate public transportation options and schedules.

Hillsboro 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 the four public high schools in Hillsboro will continue to have either no or no meaningful transit service. For example, students from Liberty High School have to cross at Highway 26 and walk upwards of 20+ minutes to get to a bus route.
- The main Hillsboro library is left with the same once-an-hour and weekdays-only service. This makes it difficult for students who need Library access to study to use the Library as a resource.
- 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 youth without actual service on the ground. Therefore, we urge the HB2017 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 youth population.

Sincerely,

The Hillsboro Youth Advisory Council

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