



April 23, 2020

TriMet HB 2017 Transit Advisory Committee;

I'm writing to make an initial appeal for consideration of additional Regional Coordination funding for Columbia County Transit in the coming biennium. The constraints of the HB 2017 STIF legislation mean that roughly two-thirds of the STIF taxes generated by Columbia County residents migrate to other transit systems, primarily TriMet, and funds generated by local employment cannot be used to sustain existing local services. Over the past two years Columbia County residents have witnessed two significant rounds of service reductions bracketing the initial wave of STIF-funded service enhancements. We'll likely end this fiscal year with an operating deficit combined with an unusable surplus of STIF funds.

Through greater cooperation and increased funding, the Trimet HB 2017 Transit Advisory Committee can make great progress in addressing the regional inequities resulting from the HB 2017 STIF legislation. During the current biennium, the Committee approved funding in support of Columbia County Transit equal to approximately 7.5% of the proceeds received by TriMet through taxes paid by Columbia County residents. All of this funding went to service aimed at bringing employees into TriMet's service district. As you begin considerations for the coming biennium, I urge the Committee to open your minds and hearts to working more closely with Columbia County Transit to explore new ways our connections can be strengthened and our funding relationship can be more balanced.

I appreciate your consideration,

John H. Dreeszen
Interim Director, Columbia County Rider

