WASHINGTON COUNTY
OREGON

November 10, 2026

Sam Desue, Jr.
General Manager
TriMet
101 SW Main Street
Portland, OR 97204

RE: Restoration of Human Services Funding for Ride Connection Network

Dear Mr. Desue,

The Washington County Board of Commissioners is writing in support of a proposal to reallocate $2 million of the proposed $4 million contingency from TriMet's 2027-2029 Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) budget to restore funding for Human Services and the Ride Connection Network.

We appreciate TriMet's continued commitment to serving older adults and people with disabilities. Human services funds that support the Ride Connection Network have been part of TriMet's STIF budget for the past two biennium. Since 2023, the HB2017 Transit Advisory Committee has recommended, and the TriMet Board has approved, an allocation of approximately 2% of in-district STIF budget dedicated to the Human Services Fund. This was done with the awareness that STIF Population funds, which had historically been Special Transportation Funds (STF), were not sufficient to meet growing community needs. We were disappointed to learn that TriMet's proposed 2027-2029 STIF budget cuts the Human Services Fund entirely and includes a new $4 million contingency line item.

We understand the need and justification for a contingency fund. However, TriMet's proposed strategy would create a small fiscal reserve, especially in relation to your full operating budget, while resulting in steep service cuts for older adults and people with disabilities who rely on the low-barrier, high-support services provided by the Ride Connection Network. Cutting Human Services from the 2027-2029 STIF budget will result in:

- 23% cut to the Ride Connection Network's STIF operating budget;
- 55,000 fewer trips provided for older adults and people with disabilities; and
- 2,750 individual riders in our communities losing service.

Board of County Commissioners
155 North First Avenue, Suite 300, MS 22, Hillsboro, OR 97124-3072
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The Board greatly values the Ride Connection Network and the services it provides throughout Washington County. The benefits of funding Human Services with a smaller contingency fund are clear; in a time of austerity, the region should invest in programs that directly serve our most vulnerable communities.

Sincerely,



Jerry Willey
Vice Chair, on behalf of the Washington Board of County Commissioners

Cc: TriMet Board of Directors: Dr. LaVerne Lewis, Thomas Kim, Tyler Frisbee, Erin Graham, Robert Kellogg, JT Flowers, Denyse McGriff
TriMet HB2017 Transit Advisory Committee

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