



Clackamas County Requests Your OPPOSITION to SB 1510-B

On behalf of the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners, I write to urge your no vote on SB 1510-B. The bill provides statutory authority for TriMet to expend certain funds on transportation facilities on which it does not physically operate. While we are receptive to innovative ideas to help fund projects to alleviate our region's severe transportation congestion, the current proposal raises a number of questions that cannot be adequately answered in the time afforded by a short session. The unintended consequences of passing this bill, without the proper vetting, have the potential to be far-reaching.

Threatens Local Transportation Dollars

SB 1510 would allow TriMet to spend bond funds on highways. In turn, TriMet could then seek funding through the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) or Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) to make the bond payments. This has the potential to greatly decrease the already scarce capital funds currently available to local governments through the current MTIP and STIP processes. It also could compete with opportunities created by the new federal Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) legislation to fund expansion of I-205.

Additionally, by giving TriMet this new authority, SB 1510 may compel the agency to compete for traditional project funding from the aforementioned funding sources currently utilized by local governments, such as MTIP and STIP. As a result, local governments would see an even greater degree of competition for these scarce dollars. Ultimately, fewer resources may be allocated toward local projects that are in desperate need of transportation dollars.

Authorizes New Spending Across State Lines

Should TriMet choose to expand operations into Vancouver, Washington, this bill would give the agency the authority to invest in non-transit transportation infrastructure outside the State of Oregon. While these investments may be beneficial to transit operations, monies intended to be spent on Oregon's transportation system should remain in the state rather than being spent in Clark County.

Please vote "NO" on SB 1510-B.

Sincerely,

John Ludlow, Chair
Clackamas County Board of Commissioners

Please contact Chris Lyons at clyons@clackamas.us for more information.