

Lindsay Berschauer lindsay@leonaconsulting.com

Debunking TriMet's 1510 "Fact sheet"

To: Sen.AlanBates@state.or.us; Sen.RichardDevlin@state.or.us <Sen.RichardDevlin@state.or.us>; Sen.FredGirod@state.or.us; Sen.BillHansell@state.or.us; Sen.BetsyJohnson@state.or.us; Sen.RodMonroe@state.or.us; Sen.ChipShields@state.or.us <Sen.ChipShields@state.or.us>; Sen.ElizabethSteinerHayward@state.or.us <Sen.ElizabethSteinerHayward@state.or.us>; Sen.ChuckThomsen@state.or.us; Sen.Whitsett <sen.dougwhitsett@state.or.us>; Sen.JackieWinters@state.or.us <Sen.JackieWinters@state.or.us>; Rep.PeterBuckley@state.or.us <Rep.PeterBuckley@state.or.us>; Rep.DavidGomberg@state.or.us; Rep.JohnHuffman@state.or.us <Rep.JohnHuffman@state.or.us>; Rep.BettyKomp@state.or.us <Rep.BettyKomp@state.or.us>; rep.mikemclane@state.or.us <rep.mikemclane@state.or.us>; Rep.NancyNathanson@state.or.us <Rep.NancyNathanson@state.or.us>; rep.danrayfield@state.or.us <rep.danrayfield@state.or.us>; Rep.TobiasRead@state.or.us; Rep.GregSmith@state.or.us <Rep.GregSmith@state.or.us>; Rep.GeneWhisnant@state.or.us <Rep.GeneWhisnant@state.or.us>; Rep.GailWhitsett@state.or.us; Rep.JenniferWilliamson@state.or.us <Rep.JenniferWilliamson@state.or.us>; Sen.HermanBaertschiger@state.or.us; Sen.LeeBeyer@state.or.us; Sen.BrianBoquist@state.or.us; Sen.GinnyBurdick@state.or.us; sen.petercourtney@state.or.us; Sen.MichaelDembrow@state.or.us; Sen.ChrisEdwards@state.or.us; sen.tedferrioli@state.or.us; Sen.SaraGelser@state.or.us; Sen.MarkHass@state.or.us; Sen.TimKnopp@state.or.us; Sen.JeffKruse@state.or.us; Sen.LaurieMonnesAnderson@state.or.us; Sen.AlanOlsen@state.or.us; Sen.FloydProzanski@state.or.us; Sen.ChuckRiley@state.or.us; Sen.ArnieRoblan@state.or.us; Sen.DianeRosenbaum@state.or.us; Sen.KimThatcher@state.or.us

Dear Senators,

I'm sure you received TriMet's "fact sheet" earlier today.

There is no other way to describe the level of deceit in this document, other than to say it is official malfeasance. Do we have a malfeasance law in Oregon? If not, TriMet has created a need for one.

In the "fact sheet", TriMet claims:

What SB 1510 does:

- It modestly changes TriMet's spending authority **so they can spend non-gas tax funds on roads, highways, sidewalks near transit, safe routes to schools and other non-transit transportation projects.**
- The only funds TriMet can spend are funds they are given, either from other jurisdictions, including federal funds, or from voter-approved ballot measures. That is it.

What SB 1510 doesn't do:

- It doesn't increase TriMet's revenue raising authority
- It doesn't change TriMet's basic bonding authority
- **It doesn't allow TriMet to spend gas tax on transit.** SB 1510 is not a radical or exciting bill. It is a very modest change that will give the Portland metro area another tool to address its well-known congestion and transportation-related challenges.

Nowhere in SB 1510 does it say non-gas tax or non-transit.

In fact, SB 1510 is indeed radical in expanding the current restricted use of gas taxes. **The opposite of what TriMet is claiming.**

It allows TriMet to spend **Gas Taxes and Vehicle Registration Fees** on transit related projects referred to as "**secondary transit supportive system**".

Whereas current law restricts these gas taxes and

VRF: http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/CS/FS/pages/article_ix.aspx

(A) Funds that are reserved by Article IX, section 3a, of the Oregon Constitution, for the purpose of financing the construction, reconstruction, improvement, repair, maintenance, operation and use of public highways, roads, streets and roadside rest areas;

SB1510 expands the use of these **Gas Taxes and VRF** on:

(d) “Transit supportive system” means those facilities in any county in which a district operates that constitute the surface transportation system in the county, including but not limited to highways, roads, streets, roadside rest areas, park-and-ride stations, transfer stations, parking lots, malls and skyways.

There are countless components in all 3 of the unfunded TriMet/Metro Transit projects that would qualify as “Transit supportive system”.

SB1510 allows TriMet to spend gas taxes and VRF on all of these Transit projects.

Including in Clark County.

Sincerely,

Lindsay

Lindsay Berschauer
President, Leona Consulting Co
503.708.2558