



August 13, 2018

To: TriMet Board of Directors
PTIP Advisory Committee

CC: Doug Kelsey, General Manager, TriMet

Re: New HB 2017 resources for East Portland/County

I am writing to express Human Solutions' strong support for increased service on the #74, #87 and proposed 148th Avenue bus lines. Human Solutions has been doing anti-poverty work in East Portland/County since 1988, so we have a deep understanding of how community members are negatively impacted by inadequate investments in transit service. We stand with The Rosewood Initiative, the East Portland Action Plan (EPAP) and the East Portland Land Use and Transportation Committee (EPLUTC) in their advocacy for this needed service.

Human Solutions owns and operates 17 affordable apartment communities with 720 units and approximately 2,500 residents east of I-205. A large percentage of the residents are low income, people of color, homeless, and/or immigrants who rely on public transit to get to work and school. Many live on or near these routes. The lack of adequate north/south service in East Portland/County is a significant burden, causing the residents to take multiple buses and transfers to reach locations that would be more quickly and conveniently accessed with more and better north/south routes.

We believe the following service enhancements would have many positive impacts on the lives of the residents in our apartment communities:

- **Longer operating times on the 148th Ave and #74** so residents have better access to employment opportunities in the Columbia Corridor.
- **Frequent service on the 148th Ave, #74, and #87 bus lines.** Frequent service will allow residents to access east/west routes, increasing their access to employment and to tend to personal matters. Reducing wait times for transfers is imperative for residents with medical issues or who have children. This is especially true when temperatures are very hot or very cold, rainy or snowing.



- **Weekend service is a necessity.** Many residents in our apartment communities do not work 9 to 5/Monday to Friday schedules. Instead, they work off-hour shifts and on weekends. Adequate weekend transit access is important for employment and to meet other personal travel needs.

TriMet has historically underinvested in East Portland and the rest of East County, though this area has the highest concentration of low-income residents who are more likely to rely on public transit to get where they need to be. Further, large percentages of other marginalized groups currently and are increasingly moving to the area, including people of color, single mothers, immigrants, seniors, people with disabilities, and refugees. Many of these groups once lived in transit-rich areas, but have been pushed out to eastside areas lacking transit. **Equity requires that TriMet serve these populations even if that means a greater share of the new funds provided by HB 2017 are directed to East Portland/County.**

We urge TriMet and its advisory committee to allocate sufficient funds to enhance service on 148th Ave., #74, and #87, as outlined above – and to continue to invest in transit services east of I-205. In so doing, TriMet will demonstrate its commitment to serving those who are most in need of its service and provide a real on-the-ground improvement in people's daily lives.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me on 503.548.0240 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Andy Miller
Executive Director