



February 23, 2026

The Honorable Senator Ron Wyden
911 NE 11th Ave. Suite 630
Portland, OR 97232

The Honorable Senator Jeff Merkley
121 SW Salmon Street, Ste. 1400
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Senators,

The Westside Economic Alliance (WEA) is pleased to offer its support for Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District (TriMet)'s funding request for Phase 1 of the Robertson Tunnel Emergency Access and Security Upgrades.

Westside Economic Alliance (WEA) is a nonprofit, member-based organization that advocates for a healthy economic environment on the westside of the Portland, Oregon metropolitan area. WEA provides its members with a common voice on local, regional, state, and federal issues. Issues of concern include transportation, workforce development, affordable housing, land use regulations, urban growth boundary expansion, and other westside infrastructure issues vital to economic development.

Portland's MAX system is one of the oldest modern light rail systems in the nation. It has been in service for forty years. Between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025, the MAX provided more than 22 million rides. Many of those riders are dependent on transit to reach essential destinations. In addition to getting riders to work and school, MAX is also regularly transporting thousands of people to places and events that are vital to the local economy, like the Oregon Zoo and Trailblazers basketball games.

This project includes upgrades for fire, life and safety improvements to the Robertson Tunnel, which connects major employers in Washington County with downtown and the Portland International Airport. The project elements have been included in response to risks that, left unmitigated, could cause catastrophic failures. With this funding, it is possible to make the system safer and more accessible for all.

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We look forward to continuing to support these investments as TriMet plays an integral part in supporting the growth of jobs and continued investment in Portland's westside and Washington County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth Mazzara Myers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "E".

Elizabeth Mazzara Myers
Executive Director