



March 22, 2024

**Our Mission:**

To coordinate a regional workforce system that supports individual prosperity and business competitiveness.

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State Labor Liaison

Oregon AFL-CIO

Sam Desue

TriMet General Manager

101 SW Main St., Suite 700

Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mr. Desue,

Worksystems, the Workforce Development Board for Washington and Multnomah Counties, is writing in support of the TriMet and Metro Regional Government request for an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant (CPRG) to fund the design and construction of next-generation Transit Signal Priority (TSP) projects in areas experiencing transit delay within the TriMet system.

Transit signal prioritization construction and implementation projects are only made possible by a collaborative effort between agencies, local governments, and labor. TriMet has a history of successfully leading these projects with their Better Bus program, which has implemented more than 50 projects in the region, serving 39 TriMet routes and addressing 4,400 hours of passenger delay. With leadership from TriMet and Metro, this funding will expand upon that success to speed up transit and help get people where they need to go.

We regularly partner with TriMet to leverage the Oregon Employment Department and Workforce Oregon for recruitment, training and contracting opportunities. This grant will provide us more opportunities to partner with TriMet on recruitment efforts, and to both train and build a pipeline of employees and contractors with the skills to plug into clean energy projects like this one. As a project partner, we are excited by this opportunity to build the workforce for TriMet's successful Better Bus program.

Our region's workforce relies on efficient and reliable public transit and this project can help keep people moving while meeting our ambitious climate goals. Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this grant that would allow us to continue this great work for our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Gihring", written over a light blue rectangular background.

Patrick Gihring – Chief Program Officer

1618 SW 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., Suite 450  
Portland, OR 97201