



1820 NE 40TH AVENUE • PORTLAND, OREGON 97212-5308
PHONE: 503-288-8303 • FAX: 503-288-8305
WEBSITE: WWW.HOLLYWOODSENIORCENTER.ORG
EMAIL: STAFF@HOLLYWOODSENIORCENTER.ORG

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Dear TriMet Board and Advisory Council Members,

As case managers who personally work with hundreds of senior clients receiving transportation assistance, we truly know the impact of the transportation services authorized by the Transportation Funding Bill HR 2017. We ask that you continue to provide this opportunity for our clients— many whom are diverse, vulnerable, with disabilities— to continue to access their important appointments and reduce their isolation.

The Ride Connection Premium Ride Program provides an essential door-to-door service to our clients. Many of our clients have multiple medical issues that make using the bus or max impossible and not safe. These clients are low income, have limited social supports and may not be able to afford other transportations options.

The clients that utilize the Premium Rides express immense gratitude about their services. One client reported at a recent home visit that the premium rides program is the *most beneficial social service* she receives as it allows her to travel to medical appointments in safety, comfort, and care.

Another client tried to be independent and use the bus on her own, even as a blind woman with mobility issues. Due to her challenges and pain, she walks slowly and cautiously. After a history of falls using the bus, we recommended her for premium rides through Ride Connection. Now she has safe, secure transportation, with trusted and reliable drivers. They take her to medical appointments, the bank or other places she needs to be. She reports that without these rides, I am unable to safely leave my home.

A third client needs to see the doctor to address pain, but is terrified of transferring because of her fall risk and the significant pain of movement. When told last week she'll get guaranteed rides through Ride Connection, she nearly cried with relief. She felt reassured they'll take care of her, be familiar with her needs, and she finally agreed to go to the doctor after weeks of being afraid to leave her apartment. Given her budget, she's astonished that the rides are free for her. She'll finally see her doctor today!

Please keep these programs for these women and all of our most vulnerable seniors!

Sincerely,

Amy Camp, Renee Curtis & Tatsiana Taran