

# Health Department



## Environmental Health Services

March 21, 2016

City of Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission  
1900 SW Fourth Avenue  
Portland, OR 97201

Commissioners,

On behalf of the Multnomah County Health Department, I am writing in support of the Travel Demand Management proposal in Section 14 of the Transportation System Plan. I would like to draw your attention to two points regarding this proposal.

First, I want to encourage you to think of every transportation decision as a health decision. In Multnomah County, the leading causes of premature death are chronic diseases like heart disease and cancer, diseases that can be traced to a lack of physical activity and exposure to unhealthy air pollutants. One of the most promising approaches to reducing these diseases is through active transportation, since traveling by these modes builds physical activity into our every-day lives. Biking, walking, and transit ridership result in more physical activity while improving air quality. We therefore view this TDM proposal as an opportunity to improve health.

The active transportation incentivized by TDM can help us reach a number of health goals. TDM makes travel options more accessible to low-income households and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. This is a double-win for health, since it's an opportunity both to reduce health disparities and to protect communities from the health impacts of climate change.

Secondly, I want to emphasize that the Multnomah County Health Department is a willing partner. As this effort moves forward, the Health Department is committed to working with PBOT to plan TDM in a way that improves health and equity.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brendon Haggerty".

Brendon Haggerty, MURP  
Senior Program Specialist, Multnomah County Health Department

*This letter is a written version of in-person testimony delivered to the Planning Sustainability Commission on 3/8/16.*