



June 16, 2021

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Dear Representative DelBene,

Thank you for your support for COVID relief to keep transit running! Move Redmond is the nonprofit advocate for better biking, walking, and transit in Redmond. Our member organizations represent over 100,000 people who come to work or school in Redmond every day. We work to make Redmond a more accessible and inclusive place.

Now, as we're emerging from the pandemic, we have an opportunity to not just continue the status quo, but to build America back better.

Transit systems like King County Metro and Sound Transit remain underfunded and underperforming. We work closely with commuters like Hema, a child care worker at Bright Horizons. When COVID related service cuts led to her bus route being eliminated, her 15 minute bus ride became a 55 minute walk, which was a challenge at her age. She continued to work through the pandemic but counts down the days until her bus returns.

Her story is not unique. 9 out of 10 people who work in Redmond live outside the City. Those who take transit are more likely to be people of color and travel farther distances from more affordable parts of our region.

**That is why we need to invest significantly more in public transit, particularly transit operations to expand service and reach more people with frequent, reliable buses and trains.**

The Stronger Communities through Better Transit Act, introduced recently by [Rep. Hank Johnson](#), would do just that: it creates a new federal program to fund operations for public transit agencies across the country. This funding for operations would match, not replace local and state funding for transit operations, therefore expanding service to people who need it. **Will you consider co-sponsoring "Stronger Communities through Better Transit Act" [H.R.3744](#) to invest in public transit?**

Essential workers at our member organizations like Evergreen Health and Swedish Redmond depend on transit. Small businesses in Redmond Town Center and Redmond Center depend on transit. Historically marginalized communities depend on transit. Transit is essential for a more environmentally sustainable society and provides more opportunity for rural, urban and suburban people. With light rail arriving in Redmond in less than 24 months, transit is a key driver of our economic growth.

With new investments to expand public transit service, this essential mode of transportation could reach even more people, and create safer, transit friendly communities.

I know you'll agree that the status quo won't do. I hope we can count on you to support increasing funding for transit, and particularly transit operations to help people like Hema who rely on transit.

Kirk Hovenkotter, Executive Director  
Move Redmond