

Good morning Mayor and Commissioners,

Thank you for having me. My name is Ariadna, she/her/ella pronouns, and I'm the Getting There Together Coalition Manager. The Getting There Together Coalition, or GTT, was formed in 2017 as a multicultural, multigenerational coalition that centers and uplifts the voices and needs of people most impacted by transportation inequities through education, advocacy, access, and leadership. We envision a world where Black, Indigenous, people of color, youth, people with disabilities, older adults, and low-income communities have meaningful participation in the creation of an accessible, affordable, equitable, and climate-friendly transportation system.

Our current transportation system is broken and needs immediate attention before it fails us all. It costs our economy and the quality of life of Portland metropolitan residents. We want to emphasize that marginalized communities are disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis, as they frequently endure safety risks (exposed to traffic accidents at higher percentages) and do not have access to private vehicles.

The transportation sector alone should not account for 42% of regional carbon emissions because we have tools and known strategies to curb these emissions. Multimodal transportation services are crucial to advance equitable and safe mobility, as well as expand access to opportunity for our communities. Funding for transportation beyond privately owned vehicles has had secondary importance to the movement of car traffic, largely because the communities that depend on other modes of transportation are politically and economically disenfranchised. Change must occur. We have plenty of research available that shows the reduction of single-vehicle driving can happen successfully by providing more climate-friendly alternatives (i.e., transit and making walking and biking access safer and more accessible).

GTT believes it's important that community and elected leaders are critically aware that the over-prioritization of cars goes hand-in-hand with the underfunding and disinvestments that disproportionately harm BIPOC, low-income, and people who do not have the physical or legal ability to drive. GTT supports POEM'S principles and the Equitable Mobility Framework, which reflect the importance of advancing pricing options while not neglecting mechanisms (e.g., additional transportation demand management programs and multimodal infrastructure) that create more equitable and sustainable mobility infrastructures. The City of Portland's commitment and pursuit of racial equity and transportation should mirror POEM'S process of investing in just pricing options that do not leave behind the same communities that we--community and government entities-- are trying to support.

GTT fully supports the POEM Recommendations, as they reflect the coalition's goals of creating a transportation system that is equitable, efficient, affordable, sustainable, and safe. We urge the staff at the City of Portland to look for ways to engage the coalition in the implementation of the POEM Recommendations. GTT is BIPOC-led and works to advance equitable transportation policies. The communities of the respective organizations and businesses that make up the GTT coalition are diverse and powerful in their experiences and cultural backgrounds. Their voices must be heard and represented through community

involvement. We hope to provide significant community feedback to better support equitable transportation policies.

Thank you all. GTT is proud to support the POEM recommendations and looks forward to the implementation plan.