Yesterday, Congressman Blumenauer addressed 700 members of the United Transportation Union (UTU) who gathered in Portland this week for their regional meeting. UTU represents 125,000 railroad and mass transit workers from across the country. UTU is set to merge with Sheet Metal Workers International Union next month to form SMART—the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Union.

Congressman Blumenauer eagerly defended federal transportation investment and the labor movement in his welcome address. “Thank you for coming to Portland but, most of all, thank you for working with me and our allies to push back against my colleagues in Washington who say we don’t need strong federal investment in transportation and infrastructure” said Blumenauer. “Now more than ever, when interest rates are at an all-time-low, it’s time to rebuild and renew America. Your union is taking steps to be SMARTer and more organized. With your efforts, we can make sure that a Federal Surface Transportation bill gets done, putting thousands to work.”