

SB 121 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 4/5, 4/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Tri-Met to study the feasibility of extending its MAX light rail system westward to the cities of Cornelius and Forest Grove.

FISCAL:

REVENUE: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of extending high-capacity transit to Forest Grove
- Already own right of way in area
- Whether Legislative Assembly has authority to direct Tri-Met to conduct study

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Tri-Met is Oregon's largest public transit agency, operating bus, light rail and commuter rail lines throughout most of the Portland metropolitan region. The agency currently operates 81 bus routes and 17 transit centers, as well as the WES commuter rail line from the Beaverton Transit Center to the Wilsonville Transit Center.

Tri-Met approved plans for its first light rail line in 1978; construction on the project began in 1982, and the line opened in September 1986. That original route, known as the *Blue Line*, has since expanded and now connects Gresham on the east side of the metro area to Hillsboro on the west side. Later expansions included the *Red Line* from Beaverton to the Portland International Airport (opened 2001); the *Yellow Line* connecting downtown with the Portland Expo Center (opened 2004); the *Green Line* extending from downtown to Clackamas Town Center (opened 2009); and the *Orange Line* from downtown to Milwaukie (opened 2015).