

**Salem Area Mass Transit District Board of Directors  
Urges Support for SB 1536A**

Senate Bill 1536A makes changes to the governance structure of Salem Area Mass Transit District's Board, and brings the capital city of Oregon into alignment with the transit governance model that is standard for comparable cities across the nation. Additionally, SB 1536A provides for the same funding mechanism, after a seven-year moratorium, used by other urban Oregon cities to help pay for the services the community so desperately needs

Both Tri-Met and Lane Transit District have demonstrated success with this model. The new board would only make decisions around new funding sources after consultation with the community, and Salem/Keizer's varied businesses and riders. This bill provides a compromise solution while charting a path forward where riders, advocates, businesses and the general public can come together to govern their transit district.

Since its creation in 1979, Salem Area Mass Transit District ("District") has been governed by an elected board, which is unique among mass transit districts in the state and across the nation. **Only 3% of transit districts have this model of governance.**

By moving from an elected to an appointed board, the current members of the District's Board understand that some of them may lose their seats. The Board came to this decision knowing that a Governor-appointed board, along with the new funding options, are in the best interests of the community. A Governor-appointed board will allow for a broad array of stakeholder representation on the board.

Senate Bill 1536A is supported by both the City of Salem and the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce. It passed out of the Senate Business and Transportation Committee on a 5-0 vote; off the Senate floor with a 28-0 vote, and out of the House Transportation Policy Committee with a 9-0 vote in support.

**We urge your support for SB 1536A, to bring the governance model of Salem Area Mass Transit District into alignment with the other mass transit districts in the state and across the country.**

Respectfully,



Robert Krebs, President  
SAMTD Board of Directors