

SB 846 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

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Meeting Dates: 2/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Metro to conduct a study of rail corridors within its boundaries, including an inventory of corridors and determination of the feasibility of using them to carry passenger trains. Requires Metro to publish reports with results of the study by January 31, 2025.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Metro is the nation's only directly elected regional government, spanning portions of Clackamas, Washington, and Multnomah counties. Led by a seven-member council, Metro operates the Oregon Zoo, the Oregon Convention Center, Portland's Centers for the Arts, and the Portland Expo Center. Metro serves as the Portland region's metropolitan planning organization, collaborating with cities, counties, and transportation agencies to make decisions regarding investment of federal transportation funds for highways and transit.

Senate Bill 846 directs Metro to conduct a study of rail corridors, both operating and defunct, within the district's boundaries to determine the feasibility of using the corridors to conduct passenger rail service.