

HB 3224 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

Action Date: 05/11/23

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

House Vote

Yeas: 6 - Evans, Helfrich, Mannix, McLain, Nathanson, Pham K

Nays: 1 - Boshart Davis

Senate Vote

Yeas: 3 - Frederick, President Wagner, Woods

Abs: 2 - Boquist, Findley

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/28, 5/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Salem Area Mass Transit District to collaborate with the Department of Transportation; the Department of Environmental Quality; and community members, economists, and business leaders in the city of Salem to study the feasibility of developing a rail streetcar system. Requires report to interim transportation committees of the Legislative Assembly by January 1, 2025. Sunsets January 2, 2026.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Past and future population growth in Salem metropolitan area
- Streetcar as potential transit option
- Other cities that have recently instituted streetcar service
- Economic impacts of streetcar development

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Names Salem Area Mass Transit District as mass transit agency to collaborate on study and includes community members and business leaders of Salem, as well as economists, as collaborators in study. Deletes references to specific connections for study to consider. Specifies that Salem Area Mass Transit District shall submit report. Allocates \$250,000 from General Fund for purposes of conducting study. Deletes effective date.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Portland operates the state's only streetcar system, which was inaugurated in 2001, becoming the first new streetcar system in the United States since World War II. In 2012, the service was expanded to cross the Willamette River in two locations, creating a loop completed in 2015 that spans over four miles and includes 55 stations. The Streetcar is owned by the City of Portland, managed by a nonprofit corporation Portland Streetcar, Inc., and operated by TriMet. The Streetcar is separate and distinct from TriMet's light rail system.

House Bill 3224 A directs the Salem Area Mass Transit District to collaborate with the Department of Transportation, the Department of Environmental Quality, and community members, economists, and business leaders in the city of Salem to study the feasibility of developing a rail streetcar system.