

Submitter: Christine Chute
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB3224

Salem, OR 97302
February 19, 2023

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain and Members of the Committee:

I write in support of House Bill 3224, which would authorize a feasibility study for a possible streetcar in Salem. The idea of a streetcar in Oregon's capital city is very attractive, both as a source of public transit and as a tourist attraction.

I envision the streetcar running over the beautiful Willamette River, through Salem's historic downtown, past the Capitol Mall with its lovely cherry trees, and out east. It could provide a unifying focal point for the entire City. In addition to being a wonderful amenity for our state capital, a streetcar could ease auto congestion across the Willamette River bridges and reduce single-occupant car traffic. It could increase West Salem's access to the Gerry Frank Amphitheater and eliminate the need to increase parking in Salem's Riverfront Park, especially if the streetcar could carry bicycles like Salem's public buses do.

Please consider passing HB 3224, which will start the process of determining whether a streetcar is feasible and, if so, under what circumstances.

Thank you,

Christine Chute