



February 21, 2023

Joint Committee on Transportation  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Letter in Support of HB 2662 in 2023 State Legislative Session:  
ODOT Study of Extending WES Commuter Train from Wilsonville to Salem**

Dear Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain and Committee Members:

The Woodburn City Council supports Representative Courtney Neron and Senator Aaron Woods to pre-session file HB 2662. This proposed legislation would fund an Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Public Transportation Division study of extending TriMet's Westside Express Service (WES) commuter train into the North Willamette Valley from Wilsonville to Salem, with stops in Donald, Woodburn, and Keizer.

The old Oregon Electric Railway, a 122-mile state-operated rail line between Portland and Eugene that passes through Salem, has a dedicated right-of-way that is not affected by traffic congestion on I-5 or other roads, thereby allowing the provision of reliable public- transit service no matter the roadway traffic conditions. WES operates on a portion of the old Oregon Electric Railway now owned by Portland and Western Railroad.

A significant portion of Salem-area residents commute to the Portland metro area, and vice-versa. As a city located mid-way between Salem and Portland located on I-5, Woodburn is well versed in workforce issues with some 80% of our residents commuting to work on I-5.

With both increasing population and traffic congestion, along with potential tolling of I-5 and I-205 in the Portland metro region, our commuting residents and their employers could benefit from a study regarding the costs and benefits of providing a public transit option for commuting between the Salem metropolitan area and the greater Portland metro area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank J. Lonergan". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Frank Lonergan, Mayor  
City of Woodburn