



2/13/2024

To: Joint Committee on Transportation

Re: In Favor Testimony - SUPPORT Senate Bill 1572 Study Extending WES to Salem

Dear Senators and Representatives,

The Street Trust is a membership advocacy organization representing street users from across Greater Portland, Oregon. We advocate to break the political gridlock to address unsafe and incomplete public streets that threaten lives and livelihoods, and to win policy and investments that save lives, reduce barriers, and expand mobility and opportunities to the people and neighborhoods our current system neglects.

We supported HB 2662 in 2023 and continue to support studying the extension of WES Commuter Rail from Wilsonville to Salem and establishing an advisory committee to aid ODOT via SB 1572, which additionally requires ODOT to consult with the advisory committee as part of the process of conducting the study.

We maintain that it is imperative for ODOT, the committee, and this study to centrally consider:

- **Equity impacts on priority communities across the greater Portland metro and beyond** including communities of color, people with limited English proficiency, youth, transit-dependent people and people with limited vehicle access, residents of affordable housing units, people with low incomes, seniors, people with disabilities, people with low & medium wage jobs, and people working in essential retail/human/social services jobs
- **Climate impacts, greenhouse gas pollution, and air quality impacts** on the greater Portland metro and beyond

Thank you for your continued leadership on improving transportation for Oregonians.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Iannarone, Executive Director, The Street Trust