

Submitter: Brian Ettling
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: SB1572

Members of the Committee.

My name is Brian Ettling. I live in northeast Portland.

I am writing this as a private citizen. However, I am volunteer for the MCAT (Mobilizing for Climate Action Together) Transportation Committee. I stand with MCAT & the MCAT Transportation Committee, 1000 Friends of Oregon, Climate Solutions, No More Freeways, and the Environmental Center to strongly support SB 1572, which establishes a task force to study the feasibility of extending the Westside Express Service (WES) commuter rail to Salem, incorporating additional local stops. This initiative is crucial to creating a more connected, efficient, and sustainable transportation system in Oregon.

We urge you to pass SB 1572 because investing in an expanding commuter rail services and infrastructure:

- Advances Oregon's Vision for a Truly Multimodal Transportation System.
- Creates options other than driving that will help ease the frustrating congestion that many of you face regularly on your commute to and from Salem.
- Can significantly reduce traffic-related accidents, injuries, and fatalities on our roads by encouraging less driving, which is linked with higher levels of safety for all transportation users.
- Offers an effective alternative to car usage, potentially lowering harmful vehicle pollution and improving Oregonians' air quality, thereby contributing to a healthier planet. Expanding rail access is critical to meeting our climate goals.
- Is a cost-effective approach to transportation. It presents long-term savings on road maintenance, eases the need for road expansions.
- Provides greater access to jobs, education, and healthcare, especially for individuals without a car. One in four of Oregonians can't drive due to age, disability, or cost.

The proposed expansion of WES will stimulate economic growth, encourage transit-oriented development.

Again, please pass SB 1572.

Thank you for your consideration on this vital transportation issue for Oregon.