



February 4, 2025

Joint Committee on Transportation
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE, Room 453

Cherriots Urges Support for HB 3233

Dear Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain and Fellow Committee Members:

Salem Area Mass Transit District, commonly known as Cherriots, provides fixed route transit and paratransit services within the Salem-Keizer urban growth boundary. In addition, Cherriots operates commuter services to Wilsonville and provides Cherriots Regional service to rural communities in Marion and Polk counties like Stayton & Dallas. SAMTD co-operates the 1X Wilsonville/Salem Express, which is utilized by commuters between the Portland-metro area and Oregon's capital city.

Our main goal in everything we do is to provide better transit services to our citizens.

I am here urging your support for HB 3233, which would encourage leaders in Oregon and Washington to study and coordinate commuter rail investments to better prepare the region for expanding demand for commuter service between communities.

During the last two legislative sessions, the Salem Area Mass Transit District voted unanimously to support legislation commissioning a feasibility study for extending the Westside Express Service commuter line to Salem.

We believe that as traffic congestion on the South Portland Metro and North Willamette Valley I-5 corridor continues to worsen, commuters would benefit from a public transit option unaffected by ever increasing highway traffic congestion.

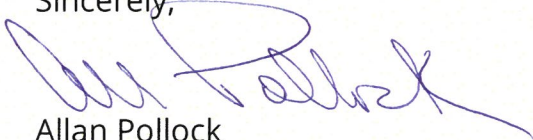
In 2013, the Cherriots opened the Keizer Transit Center adjacent to the Portland and Western rail line in the City of Keizer as part of the greater Keizer Station shopping complex. Cherriots chose this location with the intent that this transit center could be modified and a rail platform built allowing an ideal commuter rail stop in Keizer. Cherriots would then provide feeder service to and from the transit center serving the commuter rail line in order to provide first mile/last mile connector service. Cherriots is

also committed to providing first mile/last mile connector service at the Salem rail station.

The Salem Area Mass Transit District Board of Directors requests that the Committee pass HB 3233 with a "do pass" recommendation.

If there is additional information you need, I am happy to address them.

Sincerely,



Allan Pollock

General Manager, Salem Area Mass Transit District