



Public Works Service Area

City of Portland
Priya Dhanapal, Deputy City Administrator

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Senator Chris Gorsek, Co-Chair
Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Transportation
900 Court Street, NE
Salem OR 97301

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 3231.

This bill will support improving the efficiency, safety, and sustainability of transportation systems across the state by directing more attention to planning for passenger rail. The City of Portland has participated in a variety of efforts to improve rail transportation in the broader Cascades region. Expanding passenger rail is in alignment with our Comprehensive Plan policies and we continue to support coordinated efforts to plan, fund and improve rail transportation for both passenger and freight trains.

ODOT has studied ways to improve the frequency, convenience, speed and reliability of intercity passenger rail service between the Portland urban area and the Eugene-Springfield urban area, with the Federal Railroad Administration. In Oregon, Amtrak Cascades has stops in Portland, Oregon City, Salem, Albany and Eugene. Leveraging this work with more planning to increase capacity and improve operations is a smart investment in the state's transportation system.

Rail is an extremely efficient transportation tool, and an effective passenger rail system in the state, well-connected to the local transportation networks, has the potential to provide low-cost, space-efficient, energy-efficient, low-emissions, safe transportation that will benefit Oregon communities.

We look forward to engaging in further conversations about supporting rail in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Priya Dhanapal
Deputy City Administrator
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