



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 3233. The coordination and planning of a shared regional approach to passenger rail will better connect and serve Oregonians.

The City of Portland has participated in a variety of efforts to improve rail transportation in the broader Cascades region. We continue to support coordinated efforts to plan, fund and improve rail transportation for both passenger and freight trains. This aligns with Portland Comprehensive Plan relevant policies:

- Policy 9.28, Intercity passenger service: Coordinate planning and project development to expand intercity passenger transportation services in the Willamette Valley, and from Portland to California, Seattle, and Vancouver, BC.
- Policy 9.35, Freight rail network: Coordinate with stakeholders and regional partners to support continued reinvestment in, and modernization of, the freight rail network.

In June 2024, WSDOT completed the [Amtrak Cascades 2024 Preliminary Service Development Plan](#), and other passenger rail plans. WSDOT is also studying [ultra-High Speed Rail](#), and in December 2024, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) awarded the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) \$49.7 million in grant funding to advance planning work on the Cascadia High-Speed Rail program. 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 FRA. In Oregon, Amtrak Cascades has stops in Portland, Oregon City, Salem, Albany and Eugene. All of this work will be enhanced and leveraged by the planning work directed by HB 3233.

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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