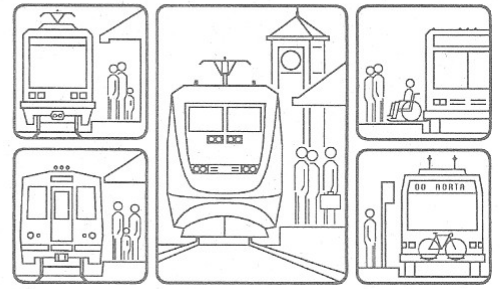


Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates

AORTA • P. O. Box 2772 • Portland, Oregon 97208-2772

Also known as OreARP • Oregon Association of Railway Passengers



March 4, 2025

To the Joint Transportation Committee:

The Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates endorses HB3362. This bill is a crucial step towards supporting and expanding Oregon rail-passenger service by providing a stable funding source.

Lack of funding has hobbled expansion and even the existence of Oregon's rail-passenger program. Hearings on Willamette Valley service over the past decade and more have shown great public support, and the current service enjoys record ridership ... but no stable funding has meant no more service. This has become even more acute in eastern Oregon, with discontinuance in January of bus service between Portland and Boise.

Unlike highways, the rail program has relied on funding cobbled together from disparate sources and in competition with other General Fund measures. HB3362 is a big step forward in stabilizing and expanding Oregon's popular and needed rail passenger program.

In the past three decades, California has made great strides in expanding its passenger-rail system and has worked with the same Union Pacific Railroad that serves Oregon... but that cooperation happened because California came to the table with money to fund the additional capacity UP required to host more passenger trains. That benefits freight as well as passenger rail. Now Oregon has an opportunity to, at last, expand rail passenger service with this bill as an important vehicle for that.

Jon Nuxoll

President, Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates