

TO: Joint Committee on Transportation  
RE: Support of HB 3453  
DATE: February 21st, 2025

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Chris Gorsek, Representative Susan McLain and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

My name is Dulasi Tennakoon, a senior undergraduate majoring in Politics, Policy, Law and Ethics in Willamette University, and I am writing to express my strong **support** for House Bill 3453. As an undergraduate student residing in Oregon, I am deeply aware of the transportation challenges that many Oregonians face, **especially students**, particularly when traveling between the Portland metro area, Salem, and Eugene. This bill represents a critical step toward expanding transportation access, reducing congestion, and combating climate change.

**As a student without a car, I understand firsthand how difficult it can be to commute between these cities for internships, job opportunities, or simply to visit friends and family.** The extension of the Westside Express Service (WES) will open up new opportunities for students, young professionals, and others who do not drive or have limited access to driving. Additionally, reducing the number of single-occupancy vehicles on the road will **help lessen the strain on the environment and reduce greenhouse-gas emissions**, especially with the urgent need to address climate change. This bill is a necessary step in creating a **more sustainable and environmentally-friendly transportation system**. It would also support thoughtful **transit-oriented development**, promoting the growth of livable communities with **easy access to housing, retail, education, and recreation**. This will not only benefit current residents but also **future generations**. This is **particularly important for those who live in rural areas**, where transportation options are often limited.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to vote in support of House Bill 3453. It will **increase accessibility, reduce emissions, ease congestion, and contribute to the development of more sustainable and connected communities** across the Willamette Valley.

**Fewer cars, better connections, sustainable travel starts with HB 3453!**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Dulasi Tennakoon  
Student, Oregon Resident