



March 11, 2025

Joint Committee on Transportation  
Oregon State Legislature

**Cherriots Urges Support for HB 3453**

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 writing today urging your support of HB 3453, which would create the West Side Commuter Rail Authority, with the ultimate goal of extending commuter rail service to Salem and beyond.

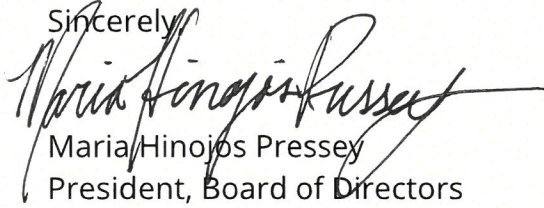
We believe that as traffic congestion on the South Portland Metro and North Willamette Valley I-5 corridor continues to worsen, commuters would benefit from a public transit option unaffected by ever increasing highway traffic congestion.

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 3453.

If there is additional information you need, please do not hesitate to contact the District's General Manager Allan Pollock. He can be contacted at (503) 361-2550 or [allan.pollock@cherriots.org](mailto:allan.pollock@cherriots.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maria Hinojos Pressey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Maria Hinojos Pressey  
President, Board of Directors