

Submitter: Nicholas Rodgers
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3453

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

I am a resident of Hillsboro, and I support HB 3453 because of the positive impact it will have on our car-dependency in Willamette Valley.

First, many Oregonians do not drive and there are not enough opportunities for this group of people to easily get between our largest cities. Second, HB 3453 would also reduce congestion in the I-5 corridor by more efficiently moving people than in single-occupancy vehicles. While this is by no means a silver bullet to solve I-5's congestion problems, it is a necessary step in the right direction as endless freeway expansions are not sustainable. Expanding highways is shown to not reduce traffic and increases negative outcomes like increased pollution and greater destruction of our natural environment. It is time we changed gears and implemented a more sustainable way to travel between our cities.

This bill is a special opportunity to grow our commitment to transit-oriented development, another way we can pivot to a more sustainable development pattern. I live in Orenco Station, one of the best examples of transit-oriented development that I have seen and I can tell you first hand that this efficient use of land not only prevents sprawl and reduces emissions but also leads to a happier community. We should not waste this opportunity to set our cities up for a sustainable pattern of life.

Thank you for reading. I urge you to vote in support of this bill.