

Submitter: Lucia Mosca
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3453

Dear Co-Chair McLain, Co-Chair Gorsek, Vice-Chair Boshart-Davis, Vice-Chair Starr, and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

I am writing today to show support for HB 3453, which will increase diversity of transportation options, reduce traffic, and reduce greenhouse-gas emissions from intercity travel in the Willamette Valley. It will also make traveling between major Oregon cities easier and more accessible.

HB 3453 would increase access to opportunities for Oregonians like myself who can't or don't drive. It would also help commuter congestion in the I-5 corridor by more efficiently moving people than in single-occupancy vehicles. Notably, Oregon's transportation sector is the biggest contributor to the state's greenhouse-gas emissions (40%!), which this bill would also help reduce. Personally, I would greatly benefit from the ability to travel to Salem by rail for work and to attend state legislature hearings in-person.

This bill is a special opportunity to grow our commitment to transit-oriented development, too, helping us build healthy, livable communities that feel connected and comfortable. Increasing WES service to Salem and Eugene will open the door for vital investments in new housing, retail, education, recreation, and job opportunities around those new stations.

I see this bill as being part of a larger needed strategy around improving passenger rail and intercity transit service across the state. There is a significant need for improved transportation options between communities. People in rural areas need to be able to connect to healthcare and other life-sustaining services in major metropolitan areas. Likewise, urban residents should be able to access recreation, attend events, visit the state capital, and visit friends and family across the state without needing a car.

This bill is a step toward a more connected, accessible, and affordable Oregon, where more people can move freely across large portions of our state without needing a car or contributing to harmful carbon emissions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 3453. I urge you to vote in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Lucia M.