

Submitter: Victoria Binning
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 an Oregonian who supports HB 3453! This bill will increase regional transportation options and accessibility, reduce traffic collisions, enhance community connections, and reduce congestion and greenhouse-gas emissions from intercity travel in the Willamette Valley.

HB 3453 would help commuter congestion in the I-5 corridor by more efficiently and enjoyably moving people than in single-occupancy vehicles. I can attest, as someone who has ridden vanpool for the past year, that riding is much preferred to driving my sleepy self in the morning AND that more affordable and flexible options are needed, especially as hybrid work schedules continue. I do believe having reliable public transit options into Salem would be a gamechanger for safety - fewer car accidents from driving tired while commuting. Additionally, Oregon's transportation sector is the biggest contributor to the state's greenhouse-gas emissions, which this bill would also help reduce.

We need to thoughtfully plan station development and connections along the corridor for the maximum benefit to the communities WES will serve - I strongly support continuing development all the way into Eugene. This bill is a special opportunity to grow our commitment to transit-oriented development, too. Just think of all the "last mile" services that might flourish - bike share, scooters, ride share, etc. All this 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 both rural and urban communities should have easy and affordable routes to get to their state Capitol - this is important for democracy.

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.