

Freddy Finney-Jordet
Student, Willamette University
Bend, OR / Salem, OR

Public Hearing on HB 3453
Joint Committee On Transportation
11 March 2025

Co-Chair Gorsek, Co-Chair McLain, Co-Vice Chair Starr, Co-Vice Chair Davis, and members of the committee,

My name is Freddy Finney-Jordet; I am from Bend, and am currently attending Willamette University just across the street. I have an internship in the capitol, but I am submitting this testimony on my own behalf.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. I am proudly in favor of HB 3453, and rail transportation in general.

Last year, I got a job in Portland on weekends, while continuing to go to class in Salem. The hours of Amtrak Cascades did not line up with my work, so I ended up having to drive I5 to and from work, every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. I wanted and needed to work, but between homework, class, and extracurricular activities, I could not afford spending all that time on driving. As a result, my school performance suffered. I got very close to having to quit. Had public transportation been a viable option, I would have been able to get homework done while aboard, as I have done before on Amtrak Cascades.

Additionally, while I have a car, I know many students who don't. Far too often, I see my friends struggling to figure out how they're going to get back to school from the airport, or the other way around.

Better public transportation between Portland and Salem, and eventually Eugene, would allow students like me to make crucial trips to and from school, while not breaking their budgets and while still able to get work done and stay on top of their classes.

I will also use this opportunity to note that, as someone from Central Oregon, I support a broader prioritization of public transportation, especially rail. I feel very lucky to be in the Willamette Valley where rail transportation is even an option, and I support continuing and expanding access to that rail transportation as much as possible.

Thank you for this opportunity to give comment. I hope you will consider students as you make your decisions on HB3453.