

Submitter: Peter Kuskie
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3453

I am writing this testimony in full support of HB 3453.

This bill is an amazing opportunity to commit to expanding multi-modal transportation options in the Willamette Valley. I-5 between Portland and Eugene is one of the most heavily travelled corridors in the State of Oregon, and expanding WES would help alleviate congestion more than highway expansion would.

WES would create more opportunities for thousands of Oregonians to travel between smaller cities in the Willamette Valley and create accessible transportation options for the roughly 30% of Oregonians who do not own a car. I travel up & down the Willamette Valley multiple times a month to visit friends and family, and I would absolutely use this service if it were available. Since trains are the most efficient way to travel, this bill also shows a commitment to investing in clean, efficient transportation which will help protect our natural environment.

I hope the future authority takes steps to improve the current WES schedule to make this a viable alternative for people commuting within the HWY 217 corridor as well. I work next to the WES line, but currently do not take it due to the paltry scheduling.

Working with the connecting transit agencies to provide a smooth ticketing connection would also help ease the burden of using the train. Areas near the station should also be re-zoned to allow for medium and high density mixed-use neighborhoods, creating a place for people to live/work/play near a frequent train service.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony, and I fully urge all committee members and representatives to vote YES on House Bill 3453.