

TO: Joint Committee On Transportation
RE: Support HB 3453
DATE: March 12, 2025

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

My name is Miranda Jones, and I am a current student at Willamette University. I urge you to **support** HB 3453, which would create the Westside Express Service Authority and expand the rail service between Salem, Eugene, and Portland.

As an out-of-state college student without a car, I rely on Amtrak trains and buses to get to and from the Eugene Airport. However, this is difficult because freight trains often cause delays in the arrival and departure of passenger trains, and buses may be slowed down by traffic or obstructions in the road. I experienced even more delays when traveling to and from the Portland International Airport due to congestion on the i-5; I remember that it once took me four hours to get from Portland to Salem due to severe traffic.

The expansion of the Westside Express Service would reduce traffic congestion between Salem, Portland, and Eugene, would reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel-powered vehicles, and would make transportation more efficient and accessible for many Oregonians.

I urge you to vote **YES** on HB 3453 to modernize and expand public transportation between these Oregon cities.

Sincerely,
Miranda Jones