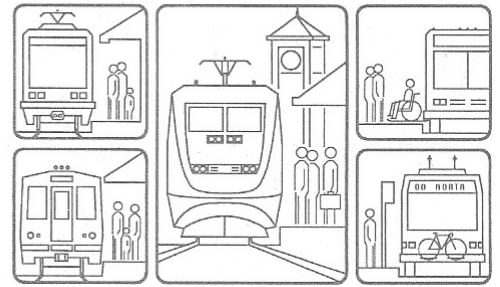


## Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates

AORTA • P. O. Box 2772 • Portland, Oregon 97208-2772

Also known as OreARP • Oregon Association of Railway Passengers



March 11, 2025

To the Oregon Joint Transportation Committee:

The Association of Rail and Transit Advocates (AORTA) endorses HB 3453.

Expanded service between the state capital and Oregon's largest metropolitan area is long overdue, as anyone driving to this evening's hearing has likely experienced.

As we're seeing with record-breaking ridership in Amtrak's Willamette Valley *Cascades* service, more convenient schedules mean more riders. How much truer for bringing WES to Salem.

The bill further establishes an authority that can serve as a potential vehicle for not only WES but, potentially, public transportation in Oregon and beyond – another goal AORTA supports in hopes of partnerships to generate increased ridership and convenience. It would also be a step towards a much needed elevation of public transportation as a part of Oregon's transportation system, not just highways.

AORTA supports HB 3453 because it is realistic and provides many benefits for Oregon's transportation system, its environment, its economy and its population.

Respectfully yours,

Jon Nuxoll, Eugene  
President, AORTA