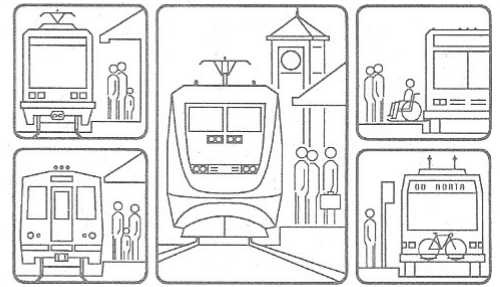


Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates

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

Also known as OreARP • Oregon Association of Railway Passengers



March 19, 2025

To the Joint Transportation Committee:

The Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates endorses SB715, creating the Cascadia High-Speed Rail Task Force. AORTA sees this measure as an important step towards a modern transportation system.

SB715 creates more public focus and attention on rail transport, as opposed to more costly and less efficient freeway expansion. Unfortunately, it's a vision historically lacking in North America. We're glad to see that vision in the Pacific Northwest and in this proposal.

AORTA sees this bill as one of many promoting a broader transportation vision that expands rail passenger service. We agree with the bill's sponsor that high-speed rail begins with more conventional, reliable, higher-performance rail. Expanding existing *Cascades* service is under consideration in other measures before this committee, and which AORTA has also endorsed.

Pursuing HSR places Oregon in its usual place as a leader in forward-thinking policy, and AORTA endorses SB715 as a step consistent with Oregon's historic leadership on so many issues.

Respectfully yours,

Jon Nuxoll, Eugene

President, Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates