

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means

Vote: 7 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Bailey, Bentz, Gilliam, Holvey, Thatcher, Witt, Read

Nays: 0

Exc.: Galizio

Prepared By: Barbara Allen, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/19, 4/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires the Department of Transportation to make a report regarding rail transportation in the state, including extending the Westside Express Service to Salem. Delineates who the report will be presented to by October 1, 2010 and creates a process to respond to the report.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Changing the name, scope of work and representation on the task force
- History of the planning process for the Westside Express Service as it relates to the work of the proposed new task force
- Scope and timeline of Oregon Department of Transportation Rail Division's ongoing statewide rail assessment and how it relates to this project

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND: The Westside Express Service (WES) project is the first commuter rail line in Oregon. The partners on the project are Washington County, TriMet, Metro, the Oregon Department of Transportation and the communities of Beaverton, Tigard, Tualatin and Wilsonville. It uses self-propelled railcars to serve a 14.7 mile stretch between Beaverton and Wilsonville and runs weekdays during the morning and afternoon rush hours. This project took approximately ten years to plan and opened February 2, 2009. Portland & Western Railroad owns the rail tracks and operates the train cars and TriMet owns and maintains the train cars.

This measure begins the planning process to study extending the WES commuter train line to provide an alternative to highway commuting between the Portland and Salem metropolitan areas.