

**75th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - 2009 Regular Session**  
**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**  
**Senate Committee on Business and Transportation**

**MEASURE: HB 2408 A**  
**CARRIER: Sen. Bonamico**

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: No fiscal impact**

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**Action:** Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

**Vote:** 3 - 1 - 1

**Yeas:** Schrader, Verger, Metsger

**Nays:** George

**Exc.:** Starr

**Prepared By:** Jim Stenbridge, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 5/7

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Directs the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to report, by October 1, 2010, on the capacity, availability, and efficiency of rail transportation in Oregon, including the possible extension of commuter rail service to Salem.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Westside Express Service experience
- Possibility of extending the service from Beaverton to Salem
- Existing rail studies being done by ODOT
- Economic development potential of commuter rail

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** The Westside Express Service (WES) is Oregon's first commuter rail line. The partners are Washington County, TriMet, Metro, the Oregon Department of Transportation, and the Cities of Beaverton, Tigard, Tualatin, and Wilsonville. Following approximately ten years of planning and implement, WES began service on February 2, 2009. WES runs weekdays during the morning and afternoon rush hours, using self-propelled railcars to serve 14.7 miles of track between Beaverton and Wilsonville. Portland & Western Railroad owns the rail tracks and operates the train, while TriMet owns and maintains the train cars.

HB 2408-A is intended to begin the planning process for possible extension of WES commuter rail to Salem.

5/12/2009 4:26:00 PM

*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*

Committee Services Form – 2009 Regular Session