

**Testimony by Wilsonville Mayor Tim Knapp
in Support of HB 2236:
Providing Equitable Treatment of a
Public Transit Agency Operated by a Municipality**

For Public Hearing Scheduled on Feb. 25, 2015, Before the
House Committee On Transportation and Economic Development

To Chair McKeown, Vice-Chairs Davis and Gorsek, and Members of the Committee:

The City of Wilsonville supports HB 2236, which corrects an oversight in State law to provide equitable treatment of a public transit agency operated by a municipality. The City appreciates the sponsorship of this legislation by Rep. John Davis on behalf of the City's transit agency, South Metro Area Regional Transit (SMART).

Currently ORS 291.405 and 291.407 provide for the Oregon Dept. of Administrative Services to collect an amount equal to 0.6% (six-tenths of one percent) of payroll for state agencies that operate within the boundary of a mass-transit district or other transportation district and to remit those funds to the district in order to provide support for public transit services for state employees. The statute does not explicitly list transit agencies operated by a municipality; only those transit agencies organized as a special or service district. The proposed legislation would result in a municipal transit agency being treated equitably in a similar manner to a public transit agency organized as a district.

A total of 10 Oregon cities operate municipal transit agencies that would be positioned by this legislative change to receive state support for local transit operations in a manner similar to a transit district. These cities include: Albany, Canby, Corvallis, Lebanon, Milton-Freewater, Reedsport, Sandy, Silverton, Woodburn and Wilsonville.

The proposed legislative modification is supported by a Dec. 9, 2014, vote of the board Oregon Transit Association (OTA), which represents transit agencies across the state. The Governor's Office has also indicated no concerns with modifying state law. Additionally, there is no known opposition to the proposed legislation.

As the Portland metro region's other urban transit-provider, SMART works with Tri-Met, Salem Mass Transit District and Canby Area Transit to provide transit services for

residents and commuting workers. The proposed legislation can assist SMART become better positioned to provide expanded transit services along the congested South Metro I-5 corridor to serve future urban areas, including the Coffee Creek Regionally Significant Industrial Area, Basalt Creek Employment Area and the Frog Pond/Advance Road residential area.

The City of Wilsonville respectfully urges a DO-PASS vote on HB 2236 by the House Committee On Transportation and Economic Development.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Knapp". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tim Knapp, Mayor
City of Wilsonville