



Lane Transit District

## **Lane Transit District Supports Passenger Rail Funding**

Oregon's intermodal transportation system thrives under the premise that our economy works by providing a variety of options for individuals, goods, and products to be transported across our vast state. Public transportation via either passenger rail, light rail, or buses reduces demands on our state highway system, allowing greater efficiency for all users. Under that premise, Oregon has been investing in passenger rail for 20 years and should continue doing so into the future.

Transit and passenger rail have worked well to provide interconnected opportunities that encourage tourism and investment. Lane Transit District (LTD) and ODOT have partnered on several key efforts to connect public transit to rail in an effort to strengthen local economies.

Located nearly 45 miles east of Eugene in the Cascade Mountains, Oakridge is one of Oregon's top mountain biking destinations and a community in dire need of economic growth. Through a joint effort between LTD and ODOT, visitors are able to hop off the Amtrak Cascades in downtown Eugene and ride the Diamond Express bus directly to Oakridge. Local merchants have indicated that this program has played an important role in boosting Oakridge's status in the mountain biking community and it remains a major draw for tourism.

In another creative venture, the City of Eugene, LTD, University of Oregon, and ODOT have paired up to offer U of O football fans an opportunity to ride game day trains, leaving behind traffic on I-5. Each game, as many as 250 Duck fans are afforded the chance to ride in much greater comfort, ease traffic congestion, and have a much more pleasant way to flock to Autzen Stadium.

Federal disinvestment in so-called state supported routes threatens Oregon's Amtrak Cascade service, a loss that would cost millions more to restore. Lane Transit District urges full funding to maintain current Amtrak service.

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