



March 26, 2015

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
Co-Chairs Betsy Johnson and David Gomberg
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Request for State support for funding for the Amtrak Cascades Service

Co-Chairs Johnson and Gomberg and Joint Committee Members,

Oregon City understands that additional State funding may be needed to support the Amtrak Cascades Service from Eugene to Portland, through Oregon City, and connecting to Seattle, WA and Vancouver, BC and that service may be threatened as early as July 2015.

On behalf of the residents of Oregon City and regional commuters, I ask that you maintain adequate funding for this vital program. Any interruption to the service would deal a serious blow to tourism and economic activity in the State of Oregon, Clackamas County and our local community.

The State of Oregon, Metro, Clackamas County and Oregon City are partners in the Willamette Falls Legacy Project, a State heritage area with plans to construct a landmark river walk to reopen the falls for Oregon residents and tourists. The Amtrak Cascades Service provides crucial access to the area and we expect the number of visitors to flourish as we continue to develop.

In 2000, Oregon City was selected as a new passenger rail station site. Since then the City has made major investments in the Amtrak site including the addition of a platform, parking lot, and depot building. We have carefully planned for the increased ridership expected upon completion of the Legacy Project. For the past two years, plans to reactivate the depot and open a bicycle-themed marketplace and bistro have been in progress. This project is now in the funding phase and should be available to Amtrak passengers, tourists, and the general public by June 2015.

We appreciate your efforts to balance the State's budget to provide many important services. Funding the Amtrak Cascades Service will support future economic vitality in Oregon City, Clackamas County and the State of Oregon, and ultimately provide additional resources. I respectfully request your support to continue and increase funding as needed for the Amtrak Cascade Service.

Sincerely,

Dan Holladay, Mayor
City of Oregon City