

June 6, 2017

Honorable Senator Lee Beyer, Representative Caddy McKeown & Members
Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization

Subject: Salem-Keizer Transit Supports Transportation Proposal

Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of the transportation proposal on behalf of the Salem-Keizer Transit Board. We want to thank the committee for its work over the past many months, and express our full support for the elements of the proposal before you.

As the committee is well aware, Oregon's transportation infrastructure is aging, congestion is increasing, and the majority of the state's bridges are at risk of collapsing in a Cascadia event. Additionally, our transit systems are overstressed, and services, particularly to rural areas, are often insufficient.

Salem-Keizer Transit (SKT) provides fixed route transit and paratransit services to the Salem-Keizer area and Marion and Polk counties. In addition, Cherriots operates connection services to Wilsonville and Grande Ronde and provides the Chemeketa Area Regional Transportation System (CARTS) to rural communities in Marion and Polk counties like Stayton & Dallas. SKT also co-operates the 1X Wilsonville/Salem Commuter Express, which is utilized by commuters between the Portland-metro area and Oregon's capital city.

We are the transit provider to seniors and people with disabilities in the area through our CherryLift service, RED Line Shopper and Dial-a-Ride service. Without SKT providing these vital opportunities to our most vulnerable populations, many would not have the ability to shop for food, attend a medical appointment or accomplish many of the necessities we take for granted. Our main goal in everything we do is to provide better transit services to our citizens.

Unfortunately, due to a lack of stable funding, community members in the Salem/Keizer area have been without weekend and later evening service since 2009. As a result, many of the seniors and people with disabilities who are dependent on our service to get to doctor's appointments and shop for their

groceries are not able to do so on the weekend. Chemeketa Community college students are unable to utilize transit for weekend classes while retail and service-industry workers can't rely on buses to get them home after a later evening shift.

We hear every day from members of the public, and their comments are nearly unanimous: our community needs service on evenings and weekends.

Should this proposal pass, Cherriots will be able to reinstate evening and weekend service, and greatly bolster our service out to the more rural areas of our service areas: Dallas, Mill City, Silverton, Stayton and points in between. We will once again be able to provide the level of service that our customers desire, and we strive for.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the committee, and we urge you to pass the transportation package.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Krebs". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert Krebs, President, Board of Directors
Salem-Keizer Transit

STATEWIDE TRANSIT IMPROVEMENT FUND

Salem Area Mass Transit District Service Enhancement Plan

**BETTER
TRANSIT**

WEEKEND SERVICE

Enhanced Service

Additional investment in Cherriots improves access to jobs, education opportunities, and shopping. It supports the economy, decreases congestion and improves air quality, while providing weekend and evening service and other improvements needed for making transit a viable option for everyone in the community.

These enhancements could provide:

Weekend Service



Cherriots fixed routes will go from operating 5 to 7 days a week. Rural service will be offered Saturday.

Extended Service Hours



Existing weekday routes will operate later and more often at midday.

Increased Frequency



More frequent service on Cherriots fixed routes.

.....Dallas40X 50X 2X
Monmouth
Independence

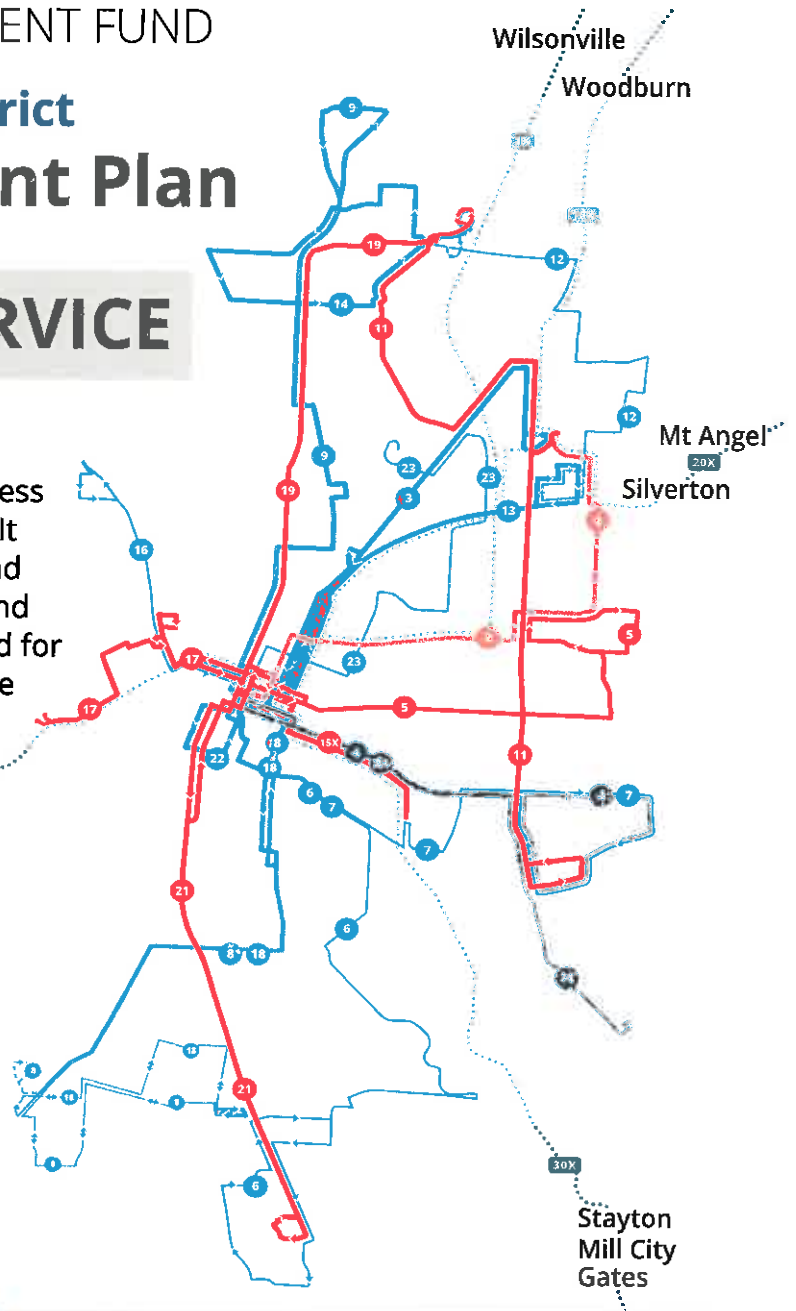
Frequent Service



Standard Service



Express Service



**BETTER
TRANSIT**

IMPACTS

ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITIES

Provides more access to classes and jobs with nontraditional hours

FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE

Helps residents with disabilities, seniors and youth get around on their own

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Connects residents with community events in and around Salem