



June 7, 2017

Chairs Lee Beyer and Caddy McKeown  
Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**SUBJECT: City of Salem Testimony Regarding HB 2017**

Dear Chair Beyer, Chair McKeown and Committee Members:

On behalf of the City of Salem, I commend the Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization and others who have worked together to bring forward HB 2017. This Bill specifically promotes the goals of critical infrastructure and public transportation which are identified in the City of Salem's strategic plan, and **Salem strongly supports increased funding for local street maintenance and public transit.**

*Salem has significant issues related to deferred transportation maintenance.* Years of attempting to balance budgets during difficult economic times created a backlog of infrastructure repair and maintenance. Only after creating an additional fee for the cost of the streetlight system has the City been able to perform any level of pavement maintenance. However, the backlog of maintenance continues to grow along with the future cost of repair and maintenance. HB 2017 will provide additional funding to better maintain our infrastructure, reduce the overall cost of infrastructure ownership to taxpayers and promote economic vitality and quality of life.

Since 2009, Salem-Keizer Transit District (Cherriots) has been unable to provide night and weekend services to the Salem area due to lack of adequate operating funds. Our recent, statistically-valid resident satisfaction survey identified *absence of night and weekend public transportation services* as a top concern for many Salem residents. This Bill will provide the funding required to better meet the basic needs of those who rely exclusively on public transportation and provide enhancements to encourage higher use of the system.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

❖ Reasonable accommodation and accessibility services will be provided upon request ❖  
Servicios razonables de alojamiento y accesibilidad se facilitarán por petición

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Salem's transportation staff has serious concerns related to the provision requiring cities of greater than 160,000 population to use salt on at least 25 percent of major streets, roads and highways. This provision in the bill creates an unfunded mandate and precludes our city's authority to determine how to maintain streets during inclement weather. Our current operations provide for the use of liquid magnesium chloride, an effective, environmentally friendly and less corrosive de-icing product.

Please continue to move forward on a path that demonstrates a commitment to the future of the City of Salem's and State of Oregon's transportation infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Chuck Bennett  
Mayor