

Dear Oregon Joint Committee on Transportation:

The rail line that serves Corvallis and Albany is an asset to our region. It serves our agriculture to the south of Corvallis and lumber industry to the west in Toledo. Unfortunately, it serves one less component of the lumber industry that was lost in Philomath. The rail lines are an integral part of the transportation system that need to be preserved. It is for this reason that I write to encourage adding another layer of resilience to the use of the rail lines with a passenger rail-bus that serves Philomath, Corvallis, Oregon State University, and Albany to the Amtrak Station and Albany bus system.

The use of a rail-bus offers a means to build economic connections by tying Albany-Corvallis-OSU-Philomath closer together via rail access. It can provide a means to increase parking-free access to local businesses and access to community cores. The implementation of a rail-bus encourages access to community and downtown cores thus supporting local businesses.

Thus, the use of a rail-bus offers a means to support our towns and adds a layer of resilience to the rail lines that serve our agriculture and lumber industries.

Thank you for your time and considering a rail-bus as a transportation option.

Regards,  
Chris Bates