SUMMARY
The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor’s brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

[Requires Department of Transportation, in collaboration with Tri-Met and Portland & Western Railroad to study extending Westside Express Service commuter line to Salem. Directs department to submit findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to transportation not later than September 15, 2024.]
[Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Department of Transportation for study.]
Establishes Willamette Valley Commuter Rail Task Force.
Sunsets January 2, 2025.
Declares emergency, effective [July 1, 2023] on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT
Relating to a study on extending the Westside Express Service commuter line to Salem; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) The Willamette Valley Commuter Rail Task Force is established.

(2) The task force consists of 18 members appointed as follows:

(a) The President of the Senate shall appoint two members from among members of the Senate, one of whom is registered with the largest political party in this state and one of whom is registered with the second largest political party in this state.

(b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members from among members of the House of Representatives, one of whom is registered with the largest political party in this state and one of whom is registered with the second largest political party in this state.

(c) The Governor shall appoint:

(A) One member chosen from a list of persons recommended by the Aurora city council;
(B) One member chosen from a list of persons recommended by the Donald city council;
(C) One member chosen from a list of persons recommended by the Hubbard city council;
(D) One member chosen from a list of persons recommended by the Keizer city council;
(E) One member chosen from a list of persons recommended by the Salem city council;
(F) One member chosen from a list of persons recommended by the Wilsonville city council;
(G) One member chosen from a list of persons recommended by the Woodburn city council;

(H) One member who represents the Salem Area Mass Transit District;

NOTE: Matter in boldfaced type in an amended section is new; matter [italic and bracketed] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in boldfaced type.

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(I) One member who represents South Metro Area Regional Transit;

(J) One member who represents Woodburn Transit Service;

(K) One member who represents Yamhill County Transit;

(L) One member who represents Portland & Western Railroad;

(M) One member who represents the Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates;

and

(N) One member who represents the Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon.

(3) The task force shall:

(a) Study extending the Westside Express Service commuter line to Salem, including increasing the frequency and hours of service and establishing a new entity to administer the rail service; and

(b) Identify opportunities to apply for funding under the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) or other federal funding programs.

(4) A majority of the voting members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

(5) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the voting members of the task force.

(6) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson and another to serve as vice chairperson. The vice chairperson may act as chairperson in the absence of the chairperson.

(7) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appointment to become immediately effective.

(8) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson or of a majority of the voting members of the task force.

(9) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

(10) The task force shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and may include recommendations for legislation, to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to transportation no later than September 15, 2024.

(11) The Legislative Policy and Research Director shall provide staff support to the task force.

(12) Members of the Legislative Assembly appointed to the task force are nonvoting members of the task force and may act in an advisory capacity only.

(13) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses and serve as volunteers on the task force.

(14) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist the task force in the performance of the duties of the task force and, to the extent permitted by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the task force consider necessary to perform their duties.

SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2023 Act is repealed on January 2, 2025.

SECTION 3. This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect on its passage.