



**Testimony by SMART Director Dwight Brashear Supporting HB 2662:**

***Outcomes of Proposed Legislation Could Allow SMART and Other Transit Agencies to Increase Local Area Coverage and Improve 'Last-Mile' Connections***

Scheduled for public hearing on Feb. 21, 2023, before  
the Joint Committee On Transportation

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Vice-Chairs Boquist and Boshart Davis, and Members of the Committee:

As the administrator of the Portland metro-area's other Federal Transit Administration (FTA)-designated Urban Area Transit Operator, I am testifying in strong support of HB 2662.

South Metro Area Regional Transit (SMART) is an agency of the City of Wilsonville, and was formed over 30 years ago in order to provide increased transit service for business employers' commuting employees, as well as to provide a mobility option for seniors, youth and low-income populations. Additionally, public transit helps to remove single-occupancy vehicles from our highways, thereby providing more roadway capacity for the timely movement of freight essential to our economy.

SMART collaborates with the Salem Area Mass Transit District to share the Monday through Friday commuter "1X Express" bus route on I-5 between Wilsonville and Salem. SMART buses also meet each TriMet WES train to provide the 'last-mile' connection to employers, as well as connections to Salem and Canby.

If WES continued onto Salem, SMART and other transit agencies would be in a position to redeploy assets to provide more local-area service, as well as improved 'last-mile' connections between train stops and major local destinations.

Investing to improve public transit is a smart economic-development strategy recognized by local governments. A study by the American Public Transportation Association found that every \$1 invested in transit generates \$5 in economic return.

SMART appreciates your consideration of this testimony and urges a Do-Pass vote on HB 2662. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dwight Brashear". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dwight Brashear, SMART Director