

February 21, 2023

Joint Committee on Transportation
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE, Room 453

Cherriots Urges Support for HB 2662

Dear Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain and Fellow Committee Members:

Salem Area Mass Transit District, locally known as Cherriots, provides fixed route transit and paratransit services within the Salem-Keizer urban growth boundary. In addition, the District operates commuter services to Wilsonville and provides Cherriots Regional service to rural communities in Marion and Polk counties like Stayton & Dallas. SAMTD co-operates the 1X Wilsonville/Salem Express, which is utilized by commuters between the Portland-metro area and Oregon's capital city.

At its January 26, 2023, meeting the Salem Area Mass Transit District voted unanimously to support HB 2662, which would commission a feasibility study for extending the Westside Express Service commuter line to Salem.

We believe that as traffic congestion on the South Portland Metro and North Willamette Valley I-5 corridor continues to worsen, commuters would benefit from a public transit option unaffected by ever increasing highway traffic congestion.

In 2013, the District opened the Keizer Transit Center adjacent to the Portland and Western rail line in the City of Keizer as part of the greater Keizer Station shopping complex. The District chose this location with the intent that this transit center could be modified and a rail platform built allowing an ideal commuter rail stop in Keizer. The District would then provide feeder service to and from the transit center serving the commuter rail line in order to provide first mile/last mile connector service. The District is also committed to providing first mile/last mile connector service at the Salem rail station.

The Salem Area Mass Transit District Board of Directors requests that the Committee pass HB 2662 with a "do pass" recommendation.

If there is additional information you need, please do not hesitate to contact the District's General Manager Allan Pollock. He can be contacted at (503) 361-2550 or allan.pollock@cherriots.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Davidson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "I" and a long horizontal stroke extending from the top of the "I" across the word "Davidson".

Ian Davidson
President, Board of Directors