

February 22, 2023

The Honorable Chris Gorsek, Chair
Joint Committee on Transportation

Delivered electronically via OLIS

Chair Gorsek, Members of the Committee:

Salem Health's journey began in 1896 when we turned a former Oregon School for the Blind into a five-bed hospital. Within three years of our founding, Salem's first streetcar service was established, connecting downtown and the train depot. Electric streetcars and trolleys replaced horsecars – but service ended on August 4, 1927.

Salem Health Hospitals & Clinics provides primary, specialty, urgent, and acute care along with a host of related services to Salem area residents and greater Marion and Polk Counties. It's critical that our patients have options to access health care with ease, regardless of whether they own or can borrow a vehicle.

Because we view transportation as integral to health equity, we support HB 3224, which would bring together ODOT, DEQ, local mass transit, and the City of Salem to study the feasibility of developing a rail streetcar system that would connect Salem Hospital with other areas of the city, including West Salem.

Sincerely,



Leilani R. Slama
Chief Communications and Community Relations Officer