



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

MAYOR: Lauren McLean

Joint Committee on Transportation
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Thursday, February 8th, 2024

Attn: Senator Chris Gorsek, Co-Chair
Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair

Dear Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain,

On behalf of the City of Boise, Valley Regional Transit and partners throughout the state of Idaho committed to restoring passenger rail service, we would like to offer our support for HB 4109, specifically the provision encouraging the Oregon Department of Transportation to cooperatively work with the State of Idaho to restore service on the Historic Pioneer Line. The Pioneer Line, serving Seattle to Chicago via Boise from 1977 to 1997, played a critical role in developing Southern Idaho's economy.

Partners in Idaho have diligently worked to build support among local municipalities and the public for restoring passenger rail service. In early 2023, the City of Boise conducted public outreach to collect stories from residents on what passenger rail service would mean to them. The results of that outreach yielded themes similar to the Amtrak customer survey data shared in the February working group meeting. Over a hundred residents located along the historic Pioneer Line shared their desire to visit family and friends, connecting to larger rail hubs and a preference for train travel over air or car travel.

We at the City of Boise alongside our partners at Valley Regional Transit stand ready to work with leaders in Oregon to advance the important work to restore passenger rail service to the greater northwest region.

Thank you,

Kathy Griesmyer
Director of Government Affairs
City of Boise

Elaine Clegg
CEO
Valley Regional Transit