

Submitter: Andrew Lindstrom
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: SB1572

Hello, my name is Andrew Lindstrom and I am a Portland resident who cares deeply about improving passenger rail service in Oregon. While WES currently gets paltry ridership (on equally middling service), this is a result of it being a not particularly useful service. The specific historical and urban context of the SW Portland suburbs make it well situated for intercity travel - being on the shortest route between Portland and Salem. I'm sure you are all aware this is why I5 was built where it was, but it's worth pointing out. Transportation services which serve part of this area but do not connect Portland with Salem will never be able to properly leverage their potential.

Additionally, the Oregon Electric (OE, freight service operated by Portland & Western) alignment between Wilsonville and at least Keizer (with some changes needed near Salem due to street running sections and narrow ROW) is well situated for future high speed rail investment. Improving the track conditions and leaving provisions for future electrification in a future where Oregon has a world class high speed rail system (akin to Spain, Italy, Japan, or China) can start with a WES extension to Salem.

WES is an orphan service in need of a destination, extending to Salem will allow thousands of travelers to beat always unreliable traffic on I5 and will be a boon for those who do not or can not drive in particular.

Thank you,

Andrew Lindstrom