



March 6, 2025

Joint Committee on Transportation
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: In Support of HB 3453 – Creating the Westside Commuter Rail Authority

Dear Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain and Committee Members:

The City of Woodburn supports Representative Kevin Mannix's proposed HB 3453 for the creation and funding of the Westside Commuter Rail Authority.

The Westside Express Service (WES), traveling north to south along State Highway 217 beginning in Beaverton to Wilsonville with future expansion to Salem and Eugene, would greatly benefit all Oregonians who are empowered by public transportation, making trips to medical appointments, work, and leisure more accessible.

A study would identify solutions to make Willamette Valley Commuter Rail cost-effective to these needs:

- Eco-friendly transportation to reduce congestion on I-5 at Wilsonville and beyond, enhancing travel along the I-5 corridor.
- A well-designed and scheduled commuter rail will increase ridership and drop the current cost per ride.
- Portland and Western currently operate the only existing line; track improvements will benefit freight and commuter traffic, which share this rail line.

The connection of two metropolitan communities will open up federal dollars while making the service accessible to many more people and the service cost will be more effective with more riders and frequency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank J. Lonergan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "F" and "L".

Frank Lonergan
Mayor

Office of the Mayor

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