



THE KEY TO SUSTAINABLE TRANSIT SERVICES IN THE MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY

Enhancing Regional Public
Transit Service: The Need for
a Salem-Albany Corridor
Connection.



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www.Cherriots.org

The I-5 corridor between Salem and Albany currently lacks dedicated public transportation, aside from Amtrak and the POINT bus service. Historically, funding constraints and county lines have hindered the development of cohesive regional transit services. However, the statewide transportation improvement fund (STIF) introduced in 2018 and supported by an employee payroll tax, is dissolving these barriers, enabling a broader, more integrated approach to transit planning.

The existing regional network provides essential services, connecting Salem with rural Marion and Polk counties, Wilsonville, and McMinnville. These services are vital for seniors, people with disabilities, individuals with a lower income, and the general

public, ensuring mobility and access to essential resources and opportunities. Riders currently benefit from connections to various transportation services, including Woodburn Transit, the Silverton Silver Trolley, Canby Area Transit, Wilsonville SMART Transit, and Yamhill County Transit. Despite these connections, there is a glaring gap in affordable transit options between Salem and Albany, including the communities of Jefferson and Millersburg.

While a 2021 STIF-funded feasibility study identified the need and revealed the potential benefits of a connection corridor between Salem and Albany, the project could not move forward due to a lack of available financial resources.



Our Vision

We Deliver Valued Mobility Options that Inspire Community Pride.



Our Mission

Creating Community Connections



Our Values

- Communication
- Humility
- Excellence
- Respect
- Resourceful
- Inclusive
- Ownership
- Transparency
- Safety



Improved connectivity would also benefit areas north of Salem, including McMinnville, Newberg, and the greater Portland Metro area.

Regional transit services already connect smaller towns in Polk and Marion counties to Salem, Wilsonville, McMinnville, and Portland. These services support travel for work, education, social visits, medical appointments, and shopping.

This corridor is a linchpin for population, commerce, education, and industry in the Willamette Valley. A reliable and affordable transit option is crucial to reduce reliance on single-occupant vehicles, promoting sustainability and accessibility.

Amtrak or the Cascades POINT bus are significantly more expensive than Cherriots Regional fares, placing a financial burden on commuters, and there are times when only one-direction of travel is available. An affordable connection would bridge this gap, fostering greater regional integration.

Many residents of Albany who work in Salem lack a dependable and cost-effective transit solution akin to Route 1X, a successful commuter express bus service between Wilsonville and Salem, operated by a partnership between SMART and Cherriots.

Establishing a similar service between Salem and Albany would cater to these commuters and pave the way for potential transit links extending south to cities in Linn, Benton, and Lane counties.

This collaboration among regional providers enables longer-distance travel across the state at reasonable costs and with convenient connections.

Adding a Salem-Albany link would further enhance these benefits, creating a more cohesive and accessible regional transit network.

Establishing a public transit service along the I-5 corridor between Salem and Albany is essential for promoting regional connectivity, sustainability, and accessibility. It will provide a vital link for commuters, support economic growth, and enhance the overall quality of life in the Mid-Willamette Valley.

