

# Draft WES Extension Study Bill Language

9/25/2023 Rev. 10/6

## SUMMARY

Requires Department of Transportation, in collaboration with Tri-Met, Portland & Western Railroad and other parties to study extending Westside Express Service commuter line to Salem. Directs department to submit findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to transportation not later than December 15, 2024.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to a study on extending the Westside Express Service commuter line to Salem.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Transportation, in collaboration with Tri-Met as defined in ORS 267.334 and Portland & Western Railroad, shall study issues related to extending the Westside Express Service commuter line to Salem, including increasing the frequency and hours of service. The study must include, but is not limited to:

- (a) A review of the specific operational and locational issues for extending and operating the Westside Express Service commuter line on the old Oregon Electric Railway using the existing or new Westside Express Service trains and the Portland & Western Railroad tracks, including examination of potential operator(s) of existing and new commuter rail service.
  - (b) Consulting cities that may be potentially served by the service extension, including Wilsonville, Donald, Woodburn, Keizer and Salem, to better understand local access and other related issues.
  - (c) Consulting relevant transit agencies, including South Metro Area Regional Transit (SMART), Woodburn Transit Service, Yamhill County Transit and Salem Area Mass Transit District, that would potentially provide bus service from rail stops to Wilsonville, Donald, Woodburn, Keizer or Salem and exploring options for connecting rail stops with transit service.
- (2) The department shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and may include recommendations for legislation, to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to transportation no later than December 31, 2024.

SECTION 2. (1) The Department of Transportation shall establish a 13-member advisory committee appointed as follows:

- a) One member who represents the Donald city council;
  - b) One member who represents the Keizer city council;
  - c) One member who represents the Salem city council;
  - d) One member who represents the Wilsonville city council;
  - e) One member who represents the Woodburn city council;
  - f) One member who represents Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District (TriMet)
  - g) One member who represents Salem Area Mass Transit District;
  - h) One member who represents South Metro Area Regional Transit;
  - i) One member who represents Woodburn Transit Service; and
  - j) One member who represents Yamhill County Transit;
  - k) One member who represents Portland and Western Railroad;
  - l) One member who is a representative from a statewide rail passenger advocacy association;
- (2) The advisory committee shall provide recommendations to the Department regarding all aspects of the study, including but not limited to land use and transportation issues.
  - (3) A majority of the voting members of the advisory committee constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
  - (4) Official action by the advisory committee requires the approval of a majority of the voting members of the advisory committee.
  - (5) The advisory committee shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson and one person to act as vice-chair.
  - (6) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appointment to become immediately effective.

SECTION 3: The Department shall apply for matching federal funds to appropriate grant programs of the Federal Transit Administration and Federal Railroad Administration to supplement state funds for the study and subsequent corridor identification and development efforts.

SECTION 4. There is appropriated to the Oregon Department of Transportation Department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$500,000 for conducting the study.

SECTION 5. Section 1 of this 2023 Act is repealed on January 2, 2025.