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November 1, 2023

Thank you for your interest in the October 25 Mid-Willamette Valley Commuter Rail convening. Hosted by the MWVCOG, over 60 people representing a variety of local governments and agencies came together to discuss the possibility of Commuter Rail connecting the Portland metropolitan area with the Salem/Keizer metropolitan area. To recap, ODOT State Rail Planner Robert Melbo shared information on a study that ODOT had done regarding commuter rail in the Mid-Willamette Valley. Representative Kevin Mannix discussed a bill that is being prepared for the 2024 Legislative session to study the extension of the Westside Express Service (WES) line to Salem. The route would use the existing Portland & Western Railroad line that runs from Wilsonville through Donald, Woodburn, Keizer, and into Salem. You may find the documents from the convening [here](#).

The MWVCOG legislative committee will coordinate with Representative Mannix to revise and shepherd the proposed bill through the 2024 legislative session. Once the bill is drafted, we will disseminate the bill to you and ask that you and your governing bodies take action to support the bill and work with your appropriate legislators to communicate that support.

Time is of the essence. If the proposed bill passes a final report will need to be completed by December 2024. We are asking that if your governing body is a proposed member of the 30-member advisory committee that you take action to identify who will be your representative prior to March 2024 so that the initial meeting of the advisory committee can occur shortly after the session ends.

I appreciate your interest in the topic and will be in touch with you as the process progresses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "SD", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Scott Dadson, MWVCOG Executive Director