

Written Public Comments
January 17, 2023 thru February 6, 2023

- **Tammy Kunz – Keizer – Support of HB 2095**

Tammy Kunz

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Hello, my name is Tammy Kunz and I am in support of this HB2095 bill. As this will help enhance the safety for many of our neighborhoods and provide tools for our Police Officers to use to help keep the speeding under control. Salem and Keizer are growing and the speed of cars and other modes of transportation can impact the outcomes of those involved in an accident. By allowing the use of this tool it can be measured as a safety tool to help gain more control and help prevent lives from being lost. A few years ago we lost three teen drivers and the use of these kinds of tool may have been able to save those lives. This is just one example, and our school zones need more help to protect our children and grandchildren from becoming part of the loss.

I do not believe we need to just use this tool in high traffic areas but in all areas around Keizer as well as Salem. This is to ensure better safety and urban communities as well. As I use a wheel chair now for long distance travel I see the need is growing and it could be my life it saves.

Thank you,

Tammy Kunz

Keizer City Council

February 6, 2023

**House Bill 2662: ODOT Study of WES Commuter
Train Extension from Wilsonville to Salem,
with Stops in Donald, Woodburn and Keizer
2023 Session - Oregon Legislative Assembly**

Mark Ottenad, Public/Government Affairs Director
City of Wilsonville / South Metro Area Regional Transit (SMART)

HB 2662: ODOT Study of WES Commuter Train Extension

- **Bill pre-session filed by:**
 - **Rep. Courtney Neron (HD 26)**
 - **Sen. Aaron Woods (SD 13)**

at the request of the Wilsonville City Council
- **City of Wilsonville operates South Metro Area Regional Transit (SMART) agency**
- **SMART operates 1X Express Bus between Salem and Wilsonville with Salem Mass Transit District**

HB 2662: ODOT Study of WES Commuter Train Extension

Bill directs Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to Study North Willamette Valley Extension of TriMet's Westside Express Service (WES) Commuter Train from Portland Metro Area southern terminus in Wilsonville to Salem/Keizer Metro Area, with Stops in Donald, Woodburn, Keizer and Salem

HB 2662: ODOT Study of WES Commuter Train Extension

Key parties:

- ODOT Public Transportation Division, Rail Operations & Statewide Multimodal Network Unit
- WES sponsor TriMet
- WES operator Portland & Western Railroad
- Cities: Donald, Keizer, Salem, Wilsonville, Woodburn
- Transit Operators: Salem Mass Transit, SMART, Woodburn

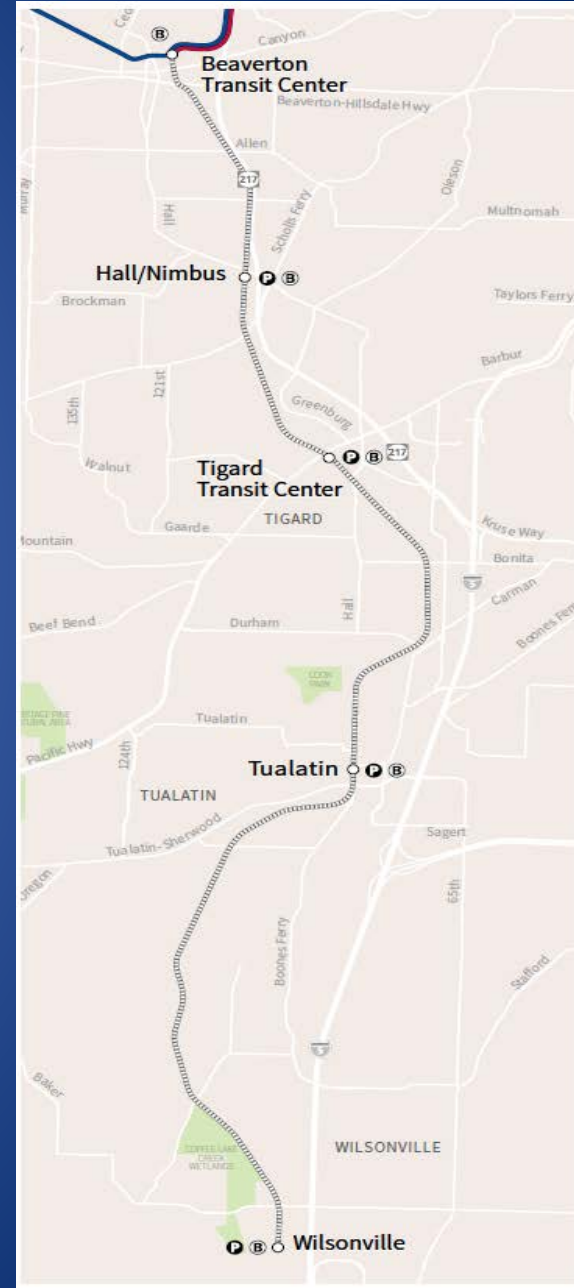
HB 2662: ODOT Study of WES Commuter Train Extension

- Study and document the various costs, benefits, land-use and operational issues
- Extend current rush-hour-only WES commuter train from the current southern terminus in Wilsonville to Salem, with potential stops in Donald, Woodburn and Keizer
- Work with public transit operators Salem Mass Transit, SMART, Woodburn for “last-mile” connections to/from train stations

HB 2662: ODOT Study of WES Commuter Train Extension

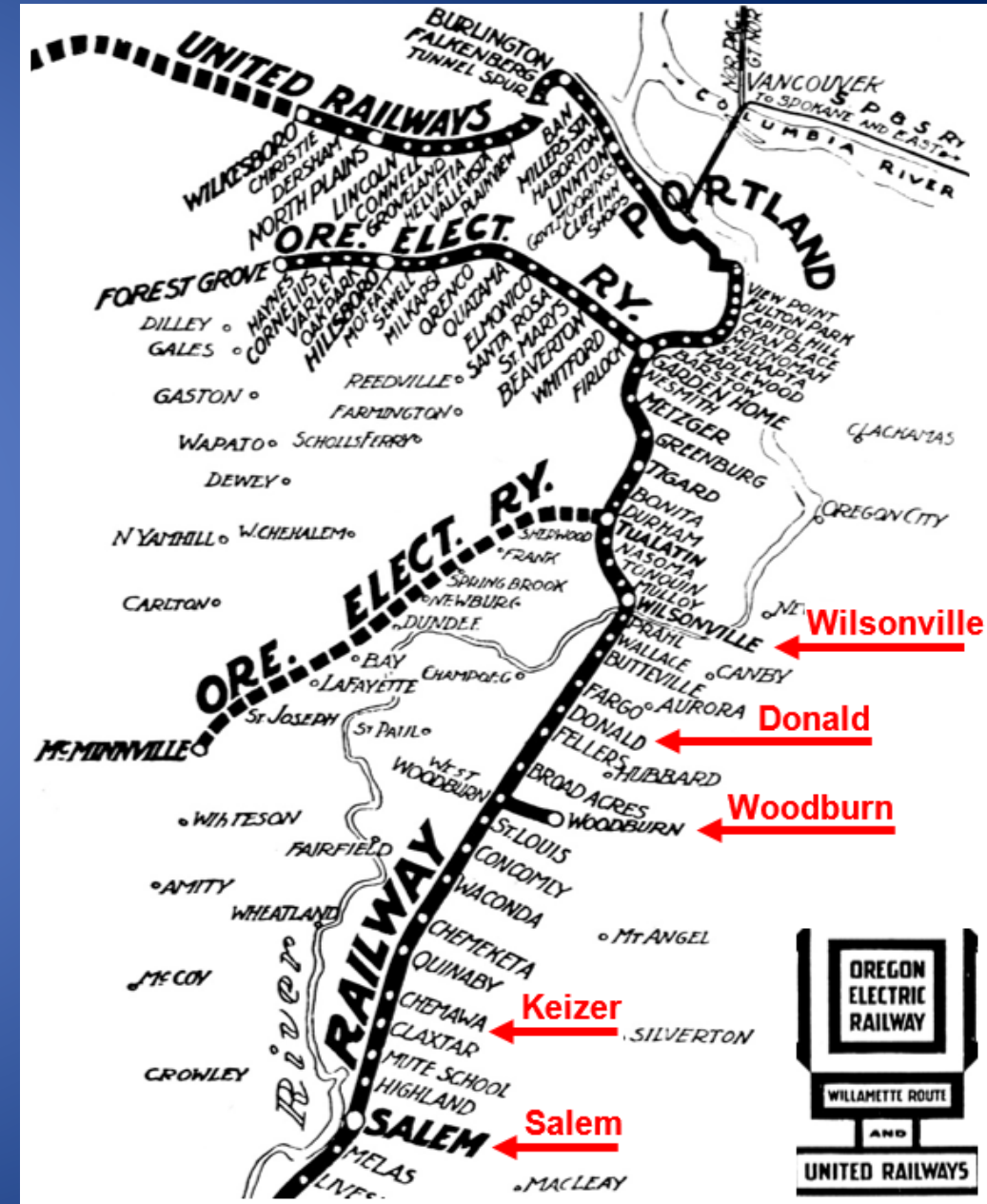
About WES:

- Began service in 2009, with 5 stops along the 14.7-mile run at the transit centers of Beaverton, Hall/Nimbus, Tigard, Tualatin and Wilsonville
- WES runs Monday through Friday during the morning and evening commute “rush hours”



HB 2662: ODOT Study of WES Commuter Train Extension

- Use 30-mile portion of the 122-mile “Oregon Electric Railway” Willamette Valley passenger train route that operated 1908 - 1933
- Used now by short-line Portland & Western Railroad, a division of the Genesee & Wyoming Inc.



HB 2662: ODOT Study of WES Commuter Train Extension

Issues of Concern

- Lack of sufficient alternative, public-transit commute options along I-5 from Salem/Keizer metro area to greater Portland metro area
- Growing population continues to build traffic congestion on I-5, 99E, 99W and other roads
- ODOT plans to toll I-205 and I-5 in Portland metro area, and additional tolled highways over time

HB 2662: ODOT Study of WES Commuter Train Extension

Issues of Concern

- Major state/federal investments to improve highways
 - \$6-8 Billion for I-5 Columbia River Interstate Bridge
 - \$750+ Million I-5/I-84 Rose Quarter interchange
 - \$600+ Million I-205/Abernathy Bridge
 - \$600+ Million I-5 Boone Bridge
 - \$50 Million I-5/Aurora interchange
- **Commensurate investment in mass transit is needed**

Keizer City Council

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