

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

April 18, 2001
8:30 A.M.

Hearing Room D
Tapes 92 - 94

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Rep. Bruce Starr, Chair**
 Rep. Alan Brown, Vice-Chair
 Rep. Jeff Merkley, Vice-Chair
 Rep. Richard Devlin
 Rep. Jeff Kropf
 Rep. Donna Nelson
 Rep. Diane Rosenbaum
 Rep. Joanne Verger
 Rep. Cliff Zauner

MEMBER EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT: **John Leon, Committee Administrator**
 Kevin Wells, Committee Assistant

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD: **HB 3593 Public Hearing**
 HB 3861 Public Hearing and Work Session

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

<u>TAPE/#</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Comments</u>
TAPE 92, A		
003	Chair Starr	Calls the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. Opens a public hearing on HB 3593.
<u>HB 3593 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
008	Speaker Mark Simmons	House District 58. Testifies in support of HB 3593 with the -4 amendments (EXHIBITS A & B). Details the genesis of this measure.
058	Speaker Simmons	Provides information regarding penalties for trains blocking railroad crossings. Discusses safety issues around railroad crossings. Stresses that the -4 amendments is balanced solution to the problem. Explains that penalties will fund the Grade Crossing Improvement Fund, which will fund railroad crossing safety improvements.
098	Rep. Verger	Asks Speaker Simmons if the -4 amendments satisfy the interested parties' concerns.
104	Speaker Simmons	Replies that the -4 amendments was crafted as a compromise among the various parties.
112	Rep. Zauner	Comments on the number of complaints against railroads.
120	Speaker Simmons	Explains that the number of complaints is statewide not for one site.
124	Rep. Merkley	Asks for clarification on how double-track railroad tracks operate.
127	Speaker Simmons	Explains the operation of double-track railroad crossings. Adds that this measure give the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) more options to regulate double-track railroad

133	Rep. Merkley	crossings. Asks if this measure gives railroads two parking options at crossings.
137	Speaker	Agrees with Rep. Merkley. Comments on the two options.
142	Rep. Brown	Notes that trains can block crossings for quit a long period of time.
146	Speaker Simmons	Agrees with Rep. Brown.
148	Chair Starr	Closes the public hearing on HB 3593. Opens a public hearing on HB 3861

HB 3861 PUBLIC HEARING

170	John Leon	Committee Administrator. Explains HB 3861 and the commuter rail project for the South Metro region (EXHIBIT C).
180	Rep. Charlie Ringo	House District 6. Supports HB 3861. Explains the long-term importance of this project for the metro region.
200	Rob Drake	Mayor, Beaverton. Supports HB 3861. Explains the benefit of a commuter rail system in the South Metro region. Discusses funding for the commuter rail system.
239	Rep. Carolyn Tomei	House District 25. Supports HB 3861 (EXHIBIT D). States that commuter rail transportation is good for the region.
266	Rep. Mark Hass	House District 8. Supports HB 3861 (EXHIBIT E). Explains the need for a commuter rail system in the South Metro region.
298	Rep. Merkley	Asks about the number of vehicle miles that the commuter rail system will save. Questions if their estimates are correct.
313	Drake	Defers to later witnesses.
315	Rep. Brown	States that HB 3861 makes sense.
330	Rep. Devlin	Points out that the Transportation Commission will not fund this project. Emphasizes that HB 3861 is needed to fund this project.
360	Tom Brian	Chairman, Washington County Board of Commissioners. Supports HB 3861 (EXHIBITS F & G). Discusses the -2 amendments.

TAPE 93, A

010	Brian	Provides details on the commuter rail project. Reviews history of the project. Advises that state funding must be secured before other funding sources will commit funds.
050	Brian	Makes a presentation to show where the light rail will be placed.
100	Brian	Announces that this project will remove approximately 1.1 million vehicle trips per year from local roads and highways.
130	Dick Schouten	Commissioner, Washington County. Supports HB 3861. Discusses transportation infrastructure costs.
140	John Leeper	Commissioner, Washington County. Echoes other commissioners' support of HB 3861.
150	Roy Rodgers	County Commissioner, Washington County. Supports HB 3861. Reviews the efforts to bring the commuter rail project to this point. Discusses growth and traffic problems in the region.
190	Rep. Verger	Asks Mr. Brian how much has been spent on the project to date and who has paid for the project.
194	Brian	Explains expenditures to this point.
209	Rep. Merkley	Asks about per trip costs.
219	Brian	Concedes that public transportation needs to be subsidized. Offers to provide further information.
243	Rep. Brown	Asks when the commuter rail will be operational.
245	Brian	States that in the Fall of 2004 the light rail could be operational.
268	Chair Starr	Revises the agenda. Calls further witnesses on HB 3861.
287	Bill Kennemer	County Commissioner, Clackamas County. Supports HB 3861.

311	Charlotte Lehan	Discusses the project and possible future expansions. Mayor, Wilsonville. Supports HB 3861 (EXHIBIT H) .
375	Jim Griffith	Reviews Wilsonville's demographics and transportation trends. Mayor, Tigard. Supports HB 3861. Discusses how Tigard will support and benefit from the commuter rail system.
TAPE 92, B		
010	Griffith	Explains the need for a commuter rail system in the region.
028	Tony Weller	President, Tualatin City Council. Supports HB 3861. Stresses that this is an opportunity to improve the region through cooperative effort.
061	Pat Johnson	City Councilor, Canby City Council. Supports HB 3861 (EXHIBIT I) .
073	Terry Prince	Mayor, Canby. Supports HB 3861. Stresses this will benefit Canby by connecting them to the northern part of the region.
099	Dan McFarling	President, Association of Rail Transportation Advocates (AORTA). Supports HB 3861. Articulates citizen support for a commuter rail system. Emphasizes that investing in commuter rail is responsible.
159	Dick Feeney	Executive Director, Government Affairs, Tri-County Metropolitan District (METRO). Supports HB 3861 (EXHIBIT J) . Stresses the need for state funding to leverage additional funds.
200	Linda Floyd	Transit Director, South Metro Area Rapid Transit. Supports HB 3861. Explains that a commuter rail system is critical for Wilsonville to deal with commuter traffic.
225	Fred Nussbaum	Legislative Director, AORTA. Supports HB 3861. Explains that this is an economic development tool.
249	Rep. Merkley	Asks if the MAX light-rail system will run on the same tracks as the commuter rail system. Asks if the two systems will share trains.
256	Nussbaum	Replies that the rails are the same. Adds that the two train systems are powered differently so they cannot work on the same tracks.
259	Rep. Devlin	Adds that connecting the two systems would be very expensive
266	Chair Starr	Notes that the MAX trains are too light to run on freight lines.
272	Rep. Devlin	Points out that the west side light rail system cost almost \$1 billion.
288	David Bragdon	Presiding Officer, METRO. Supports HB 3861. Points out that the project's benefits extend beyond the region.
337	Rod Monroe	Councilor, METRO. Supports HB 3861. Stresses that an efficient transportation system is vital for economic growth. Points out that this commuter rail will intersect with the light rail running through the northern part of the region allowing for addition transportation options.
TAPE 93, B		
004	Monroe	States that this project is an example of local initiative that the state should support. Suggests that the lottery was created to support economic development projects. Urges funding of this project.
025	Rep. Max Williams	House District 9. Supports HB 3861. Explains that his district has a transportation problem, which the commuter rail will help resolve. Urges support for regional rail systems to maintain regional livability and alleviate traffic problems.
080	Judy Edwards	Executive Director, Westside Transportation Alliance. Supports

		HB 3861 (EXHIBIT K). Insists that traffic congestion is an economic development issue. Adds that commuter rail is preferable to increasing road capacity. Discusses the need to leverage funds.
121	Walt Hitchcock	Sherwood. Supports HB 3861. Discusses previous transportation projects. Explains the City of Sherwood's support for the project.
158	Chris Hagerbaumer	Oregon Environmental Council. Supports HB 3861 (EXHIBIT L).
170	Pam Maher	Supports HB 3861. Relates the need for cost efficient transportation options in the region. States that this is a historic opportunity.
202	Victoria Brown	Tualatin Chamber of Commerce. Supports HB 3861. Highlights her organization's reason to support a regional commuter rail.
230	Ross Williams	Citizens for Sensible Transportation. Supports HB 3861. Articulates the desire to get people out of cars and into other transportation options. States that this will give people access to more jobs.
263	Jim Howell	Supports HB 3861. Overwhelmed by the support this measure has.
277	Ray Polani	Citizens for Better Transportation. Supports HB 3861. States that this is an important step in utilizing existing rail infrastructure to alleviate traffic congestion. Advises that rail systems are cost-effective.
321	Jacob Brostoff	1000 Friends of Oregon. Supports HB 3861 (EXHIBIT M).
342	Claudia Howells	ODOT. Discusses project funding.
364	Rep. Nelson	Asks about the state's lottery bonding capacity.
375	Chair Starr	Explains the state lottery bonding capacity. Advises that the details will be resolved in Ways and Means.
382	Howells	Comments on the Transportation Commission's involvement. Notes that funding will have to come from elsewhere.
394	Rep. Verger	Asks how much 15 ½ miles addition of one lane to a freeway costs.

TAPE 94, A

001	Ed Immel	ODOT. Provides costs estimates.
008	Rep. Devlin	Discusses difficulties in improving Highway 217.
016	Chair Starr	Closes the public hearing on HB 3861. Opens a work session on HB 3861.

HB 3861 WORK SESSION

019	Rep. Devlin	MOTION: Moves to ADOPT HB 3861-2 amendments dated 04/17/01.
021	Rep. Merkley	Asks if the -2 includes the federal contribution.
030	Dennis Mulvihill	Governmental Relations Officer, Washington County. Explains that the funding details will be resolved in Ways and Means.
035		VOTE: 9-0
	Chair Starr	Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.
037	Rep. Devlin	MOTION: Moves HB 3861 to the floor with a DO PASS AS AMENDED recommendation.
040	Chair Starr	Expresses support for this project.
045	Rep. Brown	Endorses the commuter rail project.
048	Rep. Kropf	Supports this project as a statewide economic development tool. Urges that rail lines be used for similar purposes in the rural

058	Rep. Verger	areas of Oregon. Notes that rural Oregon is supporting this project. Appreciates how Oregon comes together to solve problems.
069	Rep. Merkley	States that HB 3861 is a good idea for the state and the region.
080		VOTE: 9-0 AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye. The motion CARRIES.
	Chair Starr	
087	Chair Starr	Closes the work session on HB 3861. Reviews the committee's upcoming work schedule. Adjourns at 10:30 a.m.

Submitted By,

Reviewed By,

Kevin Wells,
Committee Assistant

John Leon,
Committee Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

- A – HB 3593, letter, Speaker Mark Simmons, 1 p.**
- B – HB 3593, LC amendment (4/17/01), Speaker Mark Simmons, 4 pp.**
- C – HB 3861, LC amendment (4/17/01), staff, 6 pp.**
- D – HB 3861, written testimony, Rep. Carolyn Tomei, 1 p.**
- E – HB 3861, written testimony, Rep. Mark Hass, 1 p.**
- F – HB 3861, written testimony from Lisa Naito, Tom Brian, 1 p.**
- G – HB 3861, brochure, Tom Brian, 6 pp.**
- H – HB 3861, written testimony, Charlotte Lehan, 1 p.**
- I – HB 3861, written testimony, Pat Johnson, 1 p.**
- J – HB 3861, written testimony, Dick Feeney, 1 p.**
- K – HB 3861, written testimony, Judy Edwards, 1 p.**
- L – HB 3861, written testimony, Chris Hagerbaumer, 1 p.**
- M – HB 3861, written testimony, Jacob Brostoff, 1 p.**