

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:  
WILLAMETTE VALLEY RAIL  
STUDY COMMITTEE  
ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY**

In 1977, the Oregon State Legislature established the Willamette Valley Rail Study Committee to investigate the feasibility of upgraded rail passenger service in the Willamette Valley.

The 1977 Legislative Assembly in passing Senate Bill 999, established a nine member committee whose charge was to investigate the rail program in the Willamette Valley and develop a short term demonstration project and a long-range work program covering 20 years. The Governor, House Speaker, and the Senate President each selected three members.

From 1979-1982, the committee conducted studies to determine if the train could be developed as an energy efficient alternative to the automobile. The committee conducted a pilot project involving two daily round trips of rail passenger service between Eugene and Portland over 17 months.

Their conclusion indicates that developing rail service in the Willamette Valley could be a cost effective alternative to further freeway construction by diverting from automobile to trains.

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