



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

Department of Land Conservation and Development

635 Capitol Street NE, Suite 150

Salem, Oregon 97301-2540

Phone: (503) 373-0050

Fax: (503) 378-5518

www.oregon.gov/LCD



January 10, 2013

TO: Land Conservation and Development Commission

FROM: Jim Rue, Director
Bill Holmstrom, TGM Coordinator

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 8, January 25, 2013 LCDC Meeting**

PASSENGER RAIL PROJECT UPDATE

The Oregon Passenger Rail project is a detailed study of passenger rail in the Willamette Valley from the Columbia River at Portland to Eugene/Springfield. The Oregon Department of Transportation is undertaking the project with funding from the Federal Railroad Administration. The project began last year and is planned to continue to 2015. The study area is the Oregon portion of an intercity rail corridor reaching north to Seattle and Vancouver, British Columbia.

The Department has been active in monitoring the project and providing input. Commissioner Worrux represents the Commission on the Passenger Rail Leadership Council, which provides policy direction to the project. The Department submitted a letter (Attachment A) last fall in response to a call for agency input. This input helped shape the current phase of the project, which will consider a variety of alternatives to accomplish the project's objectives.

The department's primary concern is to ensure passenger rail station areas will support adjacent compact, mixed-use communities. The construction of a major new transportation facility will provide additional opportunities for development. We look forward to working with the project and our partners in local government to ensure that these opportunities are realized. We will also ensure that the project continues to meet all applicable statutes, goals, and rules under the Department's purview. The letter goes into much more detail about our areas of interest.

The Department will continue ongoing participation in the project.