



May 19, 2022

Land Conservation and Development Commission
Attn: Esther Johnson, Commission Assistant
635 Capital St. NE, Suite 150
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities Rulemaking

Chair McArthur and Commissioners:

At the request of the Salem Area Mass Transit District (Cherriots) Board of Directors, I am submitting comments expressing the board's full support for the Land Conservation and Development Commission's Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities (CFEC) rulemaking. Staff from the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) presented to our Board at the April 28, 2022, regular board meeting. Our board was particularly impressed with the thoughtful approach to integrate housing opportunities with increased mobility options in climate friendly areas for our transit service area, and for many other communities in Oregon.

As the transit provider for a Metropolitan Planning Area that is 400,408 and growing, we focus our efforts on delivering world-class public transit services, prioritizing investment in traditionally underserved and underrepresented communities, decreasing the greenhouse gas emissions of the Cherriots fleet, and helping Salem meet its target for greenhouse gas emissions.

Cherriots Board members have participated in the development of the Salem Climate Action Plan and the Our Salem Comprehensive Plan update, two local plans that will be better supported and more successful if these statewide rules are put in place.

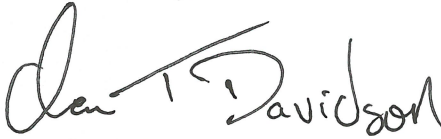
High quality transit service relies on precisely the outcomes that the CFEC rules seek to accomplish. High quality pedestrian and active transportation infrastructure, the pricing and limitation of on-street and free parking, and housing and jobs density go hand-in-hand with transit success. We strongly support changes to the Transportation Planning Rules that will result in the development of connected, safe, complete networks.

Likewise, the implementation of climate friendly areas, and the housing and jobs density requirements will only serve to increase transit ridership and transit efficiency in Salem.

The outcomes of the CFEC rulemaking align closely with the goals of the Cherriots Board. The Board urges the Commission to adopt these rules at the May 2022 meeting. Oregon cannot afford further delay on climate action.

We thank LCDC and DLCD staff for the many hours they have given to support this important work. The efforts they have taken to coordinate with local government partners, consider multiple viewpoints, and educate the public through the two-year rulemaking are commendable. Thank you, too, for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Davidson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "I" and "D".

Ian Davidson, President
SAMTD Board of Directors

cc: SAMTD Board of Directors
SAMTD General Manager Allan Pollock