



## SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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### **Oregon Legislature Passes Rail Partnership Bill, Opening the Door to a Faster, More Connected Future**

*House Bill 3233 would require more joint planning, public outreach and communication between Oregon and its regional partners around expanding rail options*

**SALEM, OR** – Today, the Oregon Senate passed House Bill 3233, clearing the path for deeper collaboration with Washington, British Columbia, and other regional partners to modernize passenger and freight rail in the Cascades Corridor. The bill now heads to the governor’s desk for her signature.

HB 3233 directs the Oregon Department of Transportation to take a more active role in joint planning, public outreach, funding strategies, and operations — giving the state the tools to enter agreements with other governments and agencies to deliver improved rail service.

“Oregon’s economy and our exports move on rail. That means businesses and passengers alike are counting on faster speeds and better schedules to keep the pace our state demands,” said **Rep. Nancy Nathanson (D-North Eugene)**.

The bill reflects growing momentum across the Northwest for a unified rail strategy that can compete for federal investment and deliver meaningful upgrades. During the Joint Committee on Transportation’s statewide listening tour last summer, members of the public expressed significant support for increasing rail access in all four corners of Oregon.

“We need to think regionally and act strategically,” said **Sen. Chris Gorsek (D-Gresham)**. “This bill positions Oregon to lead, not follow, in building a stronger rail system for our economy, our environment, and future generations.”

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