



SALEM AREA MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORK SESSION AGENDA PACKET

Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

Members: Subdistrict #1 - Vacant | Ramiro Navarro Jr. | Sadie Carney | Maria Hinojos Pressey |
Ian Davidson | Sara Duncan | Bill Holmstrom

Available meeting formats:

In Person: Senator Hearing Room, 555 Court Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97301

Zoom Gov: Meeting ID: 161 821 3987 | **Passcode:** 200746

Link: <https://cherriots-org.zoomgov.com/j/1618213987?pwd=WDVadHdEcWh4WGp3TGFnek1QZjUrUT09>

One Tap Mobile: +16692545252,,1618213987#,,,,*200746# US **Landline Phone:** +1 415 449 4000 US

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Electronic Copies: Agenda packets are available at <https://www.cherriots.org/meetings/>.

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Formatos de reunión disponibles:

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Link: <https://cherriots-org.zoomgov.com/j/1618213987?pwd=WDVadHdEcWh4WGp3TGFnek1QZjUrUT09>

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Copias electrónicas: Los paquetes del orden del día están disponibles en <https://www.cherriots.org/meetings/>.

Lista de distribución por correo electrónico: Para inscribirse en la lista de distribución de reuniones públicas del Distrito, envíe un correo electrónico al Secretario de la Junta a publictestimony@cherriots.org.



AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
 - A. Note of Attendance for a Quorum
 - B. Safety Minute – Safety & Security
 - C. Announcements | Changes to Agenda

- 2. PRESENTATIONS – None**

- 3. DISCUSSIONS**
 - A. 2026 Draft Legislative Agenda 3
 - B. CCC | Task Force Update

- 4. GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS**
 - A. Upcoming Board Agenda Items 8
 - B. Board Calendar 10

- 5. ADJOURN**

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 12, 2026



BOARD WORK SESSION MEMO

Agenda Item 3.A

To: Board of Directors
From: Allan Pollock, General Manager
Date: January 8, 2026
Subject: 2026 Legislative Agenda and Board Priorities and Principles

The Board annually adopts a legislative agenda to set direction for legislative activities. The agenda is used as a guide when responding to legislative matters and as a communication tool with legislators and other interested parties.

The Board priorities and principles serves as a guide for board members as they navigate their roles, representing the board as a whole, and empower board members to speak with confidence on mutually agreed upon principles and priorities.

On December 18, 2025, the Board's Legislative Subcommittee met to finalize the proposed legislative agenda. The proposed 2026 Federal and State Legislative Agendas are included as [Attachments A](#) and [B](#) respectively. The Board Priorities and Principles are included as [Attachment C](#). The Districts proposed agendas identify legislative priorities and projects for annual appropriations and grant opportunities.

The Legislative Subcommittee is requesting feedback from the full board at tonight's meeting. Feedback and comments will be incorporated into a final version that will be presented at the January 22nd Board Meeting for final adoption.



**2026 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
FUNDING REQUESTS**

Will be provided at a later date as Addendum A.

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2026 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FUNDING REQUESTS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

REQUEST

South Salem Transit Center and Mobility Hub (SSTCMH)

\$5,000,000

Cherriots is seeking funding to construct the South Salem Transit Center and Mobility Hub (SSTCMH), a new facility designed to expand mobility options and enhance connectivity in south Salem. Located at Commercial Street SE and Wiltsey Road SE, the SSTCMH will replace four unsafe, disconnected on-street stops with a community hub for transportation integration, providing right-sized services tailored to local needs. The project will include local and regional fixed-route buses, paratransit vehicles, and neighborhood circulators, while maintaining flexibility to accommodate microtransit, rideshare vehicles, bike share and scooter share, bicycles, pedestrians, and dedicated drop-off and pick-up areas for easy transfers between car and bus. Cherriots also plans to include a small park-and-ride area and establish super-stops across south Salem to improve transfers between mainline and circulating routes. With NEPA clearance secured and land acquisition underway, the project is ready for federal support to deliver the final lasting safety, operational, and community benefits. By creating a safe, sustainable, and convenient transfer point in south Salem, an area with many low-income households and limited transportation options, the SSTCMH will equitably expand mobility and opportunity for families who rely on public transit.

Account: FTA Buses and Bus Facility Program

Transit Security Funding - Del Webb Fence and Exterior (Perimeter) Upgrade **\$2,000,000**

Cherriots is requesting funding for upgrades to its security fencing and entry gates at its Operations Headquarters. The full scope includes securing the maintenance and operations administration buildings. Presently, the campus is an open, unsecured campus which allows for incidents of trespass, vagrancy, and other unwanted behaviors. This project will enable Cherriots to fully secure its campus on a 24/7 basis and ensure a controlled access point for all visitors and vendors. The security improvements throughout the system are designed to enhance the safety of employees, riders, and the broader community. Upgrades will ensure year-round protection of Cherriots' assets by addressing the unique needs of Salem, which serves as the Oregon State Capital and hosts numerous large-scale events each year including the State Fair.

Account: FTA Buses and Bus Facilities Program

ADA Paratransit Vehicles

\$3,400,000

Cherriots is requesting funding to purchase 20 ADA paratransit vehicles to replace aging units in its demand-response fleet. These vehicles are essential to providing safe, reliable, and accessible transportation for seniors and individuals with disabilities who rely on paratransit services for daily mobility, medical appointments, employment, and essential services. Many vehicles currently in service have exceeded or are nearing the end of their useful life, resulting in increased maintenance costs, reduced reliability, and service disruptions. Replacing these vehicles will improve system reliability, reduce downtime, and ensure compliance with ADA accessibility

standards. New vehicles will also incorporate modern safety features and improved fuel efficiency, enhancing passenger comfort while reducing operating and maintenance expenses. This investment will allow Cherriots to maintain high-quality, equitable mobility options throughout the Salem-Keizer region and ensure uninterrupted paratransit service as demand continues to grow.
Account: **CDS/CP THUD Transit Infrastructure Projects**

POLICY PRIORITIES

Maintain FTA Bus and Bus Facilities Grant Funding

Cherriots supports funding the Buses and Bus Facilities/Low-No account at the level of \$2.2 billion (annual) set by the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA). The Buses and Bus Facilities/Low-No program remains significantly oversubscribed, indicating continued nationwide demand. Additionally, Cherriots strongly supports the Bus Coalition's position maintaining the robust competitive grant program for the Bus and Bus Facilities/Low-No accounts and opposes any effort to shift grant funds to the formula program. Competitive funding is essential for larger bus purchases and facility projects, especially for smaller transit agencies that will receive very little formula funds. Cherriots supports maintaining current ratio of formula and competitive funding.

Make Permanent the Alternative Fuels Tax Credit

The Alternative Fuels Tax Credit helps transit systems reduce their emissions by providing a tax credit for a portion of the costs associated with alternative fuel use. Cherriots receives an annual benefit of \$200,000 from the credit for Cherriots' operations. The credit was extended by the Inflation Reduction Act but expired at the end of 2024. We support a permanent extension of the provision to provide long-term support and certainty for Cherriots and other agencies in the pursuit to reduce emissions.

CONTACT

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2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Salem Area Mass Transit District (aka Cherriotics) has established as its top 2026 legislative priorities to preserve, maintain and enhance public transportation investments, defend against transit funding reduction opportunities and improve public transit safety.

Priority	Item
1	<p>Preserve, Maintain and Enhance Public Transportation Investments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Work with OTA, ODOT, transit advocates and others to preserve, maintain and enhance funding for public transportation investments.</i> • <i>Protect against efforts to reduce transit funding resulting from the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund employee payroll tax.</i>
1	<p>Preserve and Maintain the district's established transit funding authority. <i>Defend the district's established transit funding authority.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oppose: LC63 (when bill drops put in bill info)
2	<p>Leverage environmental investment opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Monitor and engage on proposals that expand zero-emission vehicle transit infrastructure or support investment in clean transit technologies.</i> • <i>Track any legislative exploration of cap and invest or similar carbon pricing mechanisms and ensure Cherriotics is positioned for meaningful public transit investments.</i>
2	<p>Support Increased Investments on Footpaths and Bicycle Trails. <i>Monitor discussions and activity surrounding legislative concepts and budget appropriations that would increase investments on footpaths and bicycle trails.</i></p>
3	<p>Regional Passenger Rail Implementation. <i>Work with legislative champions, transit advocates and local community members in support of efforts to study the expansion of the passenger rail line from Portland to Salem.</i></p>

As particular bills work through the system, CFM will work with Cherriotics leadership to monitor and report on any legislative concepts which may impact the District and prepare an appropriate response.

CONTACT

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BOARD PRIORITIES AND PRINCIPLES

Salem Area Mass Transit District, also known as Cherriots, has established priorities and principles that board members can use when representing the District on external committees.

Cherriots Board of Directors adopts the following priorities and principles:

Support for ~~i~~Increased ~~P~~ublic ~~T~~ransit ~~F~~funding

~~While Cherriots has seen an expansion of service in recent years, n~~Noticeable gaps in ~~service~~ frequency and coverage remain ~~in the existing service~~ both ~~within~~inside and outside the Salem-Keizer Urban Growth Boundary. ~~As such, The District we are~~ support~~sive of~~ initiatives that ~~could support the expansion of~~ public transit ~~and~~ ~~paratransit~~ services in Marion and Polk counties. ~~Potential F~~funding ~~sources could~~ include federal, state, or local (city and county) ~~resources~~.

Pedestrian and ~~b~~Bicyclist ~~i~~nfrastructure

Transit riders and ~~other~~ community members depend on a strong, multi-modal ~~transportation~~ network to reach their destinations. ~~Significant portions~~Large sections of the ~~Salem-Keizer u~~Urban ~~g~~Growth ~~b~~Boundary ~~do not have~~lack sidewalks, and ~~bicycle~~ infrastructure ~~is remains~~ inadequate. As ~~the District~~Cherriots becomes ~~evolves as~~ a mobility integrator, ~~the District we~~ must advocate for strong “~~A~~active ~~T~~ransportation” infrastructure.

Environmental ~~and~~ Community Impact~~justice~~

Decisions ~~regarding on how to allocate~~ resources ~~allocation~~ should be ~~evaluated~~viewed through a ~~community-focused~~ lens of environmental ~~lens~~justice. New projects should always consider ~~impacts on~~ historically underserved communities ~~and strive to support positive outcomes for all community members~~.

Maintenance of ~~e~~Existing ~~t~~Travel ~~i~~Lanes ~~before building new infrastructure~~

Allocation of funding for automobile travel lanes should prioritize the maintenance ~~and~~ ~~preservation~~ of existing infrastructure before ~~investing in~~building new, costly-to-maintain ~~automobile~~ infrastructure.

Unaccounted ~~e~~Costs

~~Attention should be paid to p~~Policies ~~should avoid placing the financial burden that put the burden~~ of costly infrastructure on the public when the number ~~of beneficiaries is minimal~~of individuals who would benefit is nominal.

Adopted: January 22~~3~~, 202~~6~~5



BOARD PRIORITIES AND PRINCIPLES

Salem Area Mass Transit District, also known as Cherriots, has established priorities and principles that board members can use when representing the District on external committees.

Cherriots Board of Directors adopts the following priorities and principles:

Support for Increased Public Transit Funding

Noticeable gaps in service frequency and coverage remain both within and outside the Salem-Keizer Urban Growth Boundary. The District supports initiatives that expand public transit and paratransit services in Marion and Polk counties. Potential funding sources include federal, state, or local (city and county) resources.

Pedestrian and Bicyclist Infrastructure

Transit riders and community members depend on a strong, multimodal transportation network to reach their destinations. Significant portions of the Salem-Keizer Urban Growth Boundary lack sidewalks, and bicycle infrastructure remains inadequate. As the District evolves as a mobility integrator, the District must advocate for strong active transportation infrastructure.

Environmental and Community Impact

Decisions regarding resource allocation should be evaluated through a community-focused environmental lens. New projects should always consider impacts on historically underserved communities and strive to support positive outcomes for all community members.

Maintenance of Existing Travel Lanes

Allocation of funding for automobile travel lanes should prioritize the maintenance and preservation of existing infrastructure before investing in new, costly-to-maintain automobile infrastructure.

Unaccounted Costs

Policies should avoid placing the financial burden of costly infrastructure on the public when the number of beneficiaries is minimal.

Adopted: January 22, 2026



To: Board of Directors
From: Allan Pollock, General Manager
Date: January 8, 2026
Subject: Upcoming Work Session and Board Meeting Agenda Items

Upcoming Work Session and Board Agenda Items

AP - Allan Pollock | DT - David Trimble | CC - Cliff Carpentier | DL - Denise LaRue | JR - Jaél Rose | SA - Shofi Azum | TD - Tom Dietz

* Consent Calendar

To Be Scheduled:			
Board Meeting		Work Session	
Award of Contract for DW Fencing	CC	Cybersecurity Assessment	DT
SSTC Land Acquisition		COA	SA
Ordinance (1) XX, First Reading	AP	ITS & BEB Dashboard Demonstration	TD SA
Ordinance (2) XX, First Reading	AP	Food, Beverage, Transportation Benefits	AP
Ordinance (1) XX, Second Reading	AP		
Ordinance (2) XX, Second Reading	AP		

January 8, 2026	Agenda Reports Due December 29
Work Session	Safety Minute: SAFETY & SECURITY
2026 Draft Legislative Agenda	AP
Task Force Update	AP

January 22, 2026	Agenda Reports Due January 08
Board Meeting	Safety Minute: SAFETY & SECURITY
Action Items	Informational Items
2026 Legislative Agenda	AP
CAC Appointments *	TD
CAC Chair Vice Chair Appointments *	TD
Advisory Committee(s) Bylaws Update*	AP
Board Bylaws Update*	AP
	Presentations
	Customer Satisfaction Community Value
	JR

February 12, 2026	Agenda Reports Due February 2
Work Session	Safety Minute: COMMUNICATIONS
Task Force Update	AP
SSTC Final Design	DT
Joint Session CAC & Board Work Plan Development	

February 26, 2026	Agenda Reports Due February 12
Board Meeting	Safety Minute: COMMUNICATIONS
Action Items	Informational Items
Approve TAM Plan	TD
Q2 NTD Reportable Assault Data *	CC
Bike Feasibility Study Project	SA
	Q2 Strategic Plan Report
	AP
	Q2 Performance Report
	SA
	Q2 Finance Report
	DL
	Presentations

Upcoming Work Session and Board Agenda Items

AP - Allan Pollock | DT - David Trimble | CC - Cliff Carpentier | DL - Denise LaRue | JR - Jaél Rose | SA - Shofi Azum | TD - Tom Dietz

** Consent Calendar*

March 12, 2026

Work Session

Task Force Update AP

Agenda Reports Due March 2

Safety Minute: FINANCE

March 26, 2026

Board Meeting

Action Items

Agenda Reports Due March 12

Safety Minute: FINANCE

Informational Items

Service Change Briefing for May 2026 SA

Presentations



To: Board of Directors
From: Allan Pollock, General Manager
Date: January 8, 2026
Subject: Board Calendar

Board Calendar

January

Table with 4 columns: Day, Date, Time, and Event. Rows include New Year's Day (Closed), District Board Work Session, District Board DEI Subcommittee, MWVCOG Legislative Gathering, Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Closed), District Board of Directors Meeting, and Task Force Mtg. 1.

February

Table with 4 columns: Day, Date, Time, and Event. Rows include 2026 Oregon Legislative Session Begins, District Board DEI Subcommittee, Connects Winter Event, District Board Work Session, Presidents Day (Closed), Community Advisory Committee, Connects Blood Drive, and District Board of Directors Meeting.

March

Table with 4 columns: Day, Date, Time, and Event. Rows include MWVCOG Annual Meeting, District Board DEI Subcommittee, 2026 Oregon Legislative Session Ends, Spring Forward - Daylight Savings Time, District Board Work Session, and District Board of Directors Meeting.