

From: [Donald Davis](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Salem Airport
Date: Monday, October 24, 2022 4:36:55 PM

The airline industry has had major problems with finding enough pilots and fuel costs that airlines are cutting routes, not expanding. [Eugene Airport confirms United cutting direct flights to Chicago, LAX \(registerguard.com\)](#)

In addition, there are worrying signs of a recession that is going to occur, reducing travel demand throughout the united states. This will make people less likely to travel, particularly for entertainment venues, such as los vegas. [5 signs the world is headed for a recession | CNN Business](#)

Moving forward with an airport project at this time would be irresponsible. Airline flights are often just a subsidy for those who would not utilize the service, such as lower income individuals, pay towards those with money to spend on non essential travel. [State subsidies take from the poor to give to the rich - The Washington Post](#)

A far better use of this grant money, should we in salem wish to encourage tourism, would be partnering with amtrak and local businesses to provide recreation packages for salem and the Willamette valley. There is already a scenic train that travels through salem twice a day called the Coast Starlight . [Western USA Train Tours | West Coast Vacation Packages \(vacationsbyrail.com\)](#)

Spending money to advertise and build out rail facilities and vacation packages to support more rail travelers would be far higher return on investment than attempting to start an air service from scratch. As of 2021, during the height of the pandemic, there were 22000 people who utilized our amtrak station throughout the year [Amtrak FY21 Fact Sheet - State of Oregon](#). During the 2019 year there were 56500 people who utilized it, showing there is latent demand in our transportation system that simply needs to be capitalized on. [STATE OF OREGON \(amtrak.com\)](#)

And these ridership numbers were achieved with only 25 car parking spaces and 4 secured bike parking spaces and a transit connection. Providing more secure and monitored bike storage would go a long way to alleviate people's concerns about parking their bike and increase ridership on Amtrak, reducing the number of people who commute along the I5 corridor. [Alewife Station's Bike Cage: Cambridge, Mass. on Vimeo](#)