

PBOT

PORTLAND BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION

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Chloe Eudaly Commissioner **Chris Warner** Interim Director

March 6, 2019

Senator Lee Beyer and Representative Caddy McKeown, Co-Chairs
Joint Committee on Transportation
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chair Beyer and Co-Chair McKeown, Members of the Committee:

The City of Portland is committed to safe travel speeds and has lowered speeds to support safe travel on residential streets in neighborhoods throughout the City.

Last year, Portland used authority granted in the 2017 legislative session to set 20 mph speed limits on residential streets. The new 20 mph speed limits are helping us to preserve the safety and livability of our neighborhoods. SB 558 would allow more places in Oregon to do the same.

Residents have told us that high speeds on residential streets are a top barrier to walking and in past years we have heard regularly about concerns about speeding on local streets.

We know that speed is a critical factor in making streets safer. Crashes that occur at slower speeds are less likely to result in deaths and serious injuries. This is true even at relatively low speeds; a person who drives at 20 miles per hour instead of 25 and crashes into a pedestrian is 42 percent less likely to kill that person.

20 mph speed limits on residential streets are benefiting us in multiple ways. It improves the safety of our local street system, helps children get to school by lowering speeds near all schools, and eliminates the inconsistency on residential streets between school zones and non-school zones.

Our residents have embraced the new 20 mph speed limit. We provided 7,000 yard signs that say "20 is plenty" for people to place in their front yard. We ran out of signs months ago, and people still call us asking for them on regular basis.

We believe that this bill will be a benefit to communities throughout the state just as it has been a safety benefit to residents of Portland. Additionally, the -3 Amendments will help make it easier for communities big and small to implement.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,



Chris Warner, Interim Director



The Portland Bureau of Transportation fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the ADA Title II, and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For accommodations, complaints and information, call (503) 823-5185, City TTY (503) 823-6868, or use Oregon Relay Service: 711.