

Mark Gamba, Mayor
City of Milwaukie
10722 SE Main Street
Milwaukie, OR 97222

March 6, 2019

Joint Committee on Transportation
900 Court St., NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2702 and SB 558

Chairs Beyer and McKeown:

In the 2017 session, HB 2682 was enacted, giving the City of Portland the authority to establish speed limits on neighborhood streets five miles per hour below those set by the state. This year, SB 558 would expand this authority to cities across the state. Given Oregon's strong home rule tradition, it seems that speed limits on any roads other than state highways should be left to localities to set for themselves.

The Milwaukie City Council unanimously supports legislation to give Milwaukie- and all jurisdictions – the authority to set their own speed limits on streets other than state highways. Therefore, we urge the committee to advance SB 558, or other similar legislation, to facilitate lowering speeds for safety reasons. Lower speeds, particularly on neighborhood routes, would complement Milwaukie's efforts to build a safe and reliable transportation network for all users.

The City of Milwaukie also supports HB 2702 which would grant the City of Portland the authority to set speeds on all roadways it has jurisdiction over of as the road authority. We ask the committee to consider expanding the same authority to all cities so that we can address safety issues on our roadways regardless of classification. Many of our upcoming bike and pedestrian projects are on collectors and arterials. Expanding HB 2702 would allow us to consider speed reduction as a tool to improve safety for all users on these roadways as well.



A recently-released study by Smart Growth America, entitled "Dangerous by Design," shows that the number of pedestrians killed by vehicles increased by 35 percent over the last decade. The report shows Oregon faring slightly better than the national average, although the Portland metropolitan area fares better. The report can be found here: <https://smartgrowthamerica.org/dangerous-by-design/>The recommendations in this report, along with Vision Zero programs and "Twenty is Plenty" campaigns, make it clear that controlling speed limits is an important tool for reducing pedestrian fatalities.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We would be happy to work with your offices on this proposal, and to come to Salem to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Gamba', written in a cursive style.

Mark Gamba, Mayor
City of Milwaukie

cc: Rep. Karin Power
Sen. Kathleen Taylor
Metro Mayors Consortium
League of Oregon Cities