



3/6/2019

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

RE: SUPPORT for SB 558 - Authorizes cities to designate a speed that is five miles per hour lower than statutory speed when a street is located in a residence district and is not an arterial

Dear Co-Chairs Beyer and McKeown and Members of the Committee:

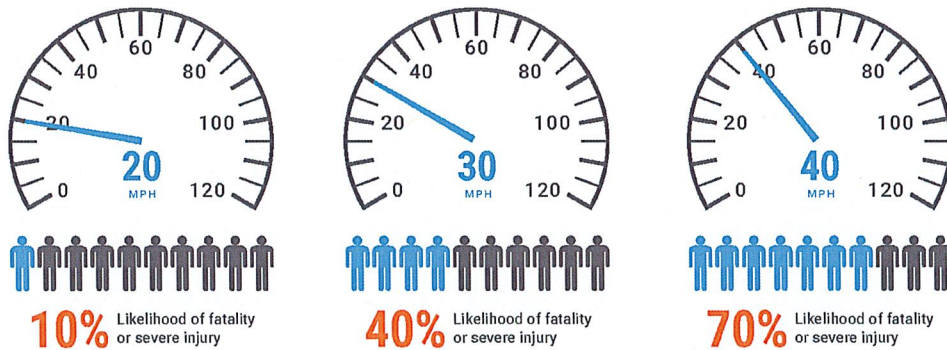
Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding SB 558, which would authorizes cities to designate speeds for streets, under their jurisdiction, that are five miles per hour lower than the statutory speed when the street is located in a residence district and is not an arterial.

Eugene is a Vision Zero City with the goal of eliminating deaths and life changing injuries on our transportation system by 2035.

The tenets of Vision Zero and safe systems approaches to transportation safety are to design our streets so that the outcomes of people making mistakes is less severe, that we design streets and set speed limits with the trauma a human body can withstand in mind, we use data to inform our decision making and agency transportation professionals are accountable for managing their transportation systems to meet desired safety outcomes.

We know that speed is the most critical factor in whether a crash occurs and how severe the outcomes of a crash are. **Nearly 1 in 3 of the fatal and serious injury crashes in Eugene occur on streets signed at 25 and 30mph.**

The graphic below illustrates how small differences in speed exponentially increase the chance of death and life changing injuries for vulnerable users such as people walking, biking or using a mobility device.



Source: Tefft, Brian C. *Impact speed and a pedestrian's risk of severe injury or death. Accident Analysis & Prevention. 50. 2013*

The current system (85th percentile centric) for determining speeds within urban areas is outdated, with the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recommending, “The safe system approach to setting speed limits in urban areas is an improvement over conventional approaches because it considers the vulnerability of all road users.”

The City of Eugene is enthusiastically collaborating with ODOT and other local governments as part of a speed zone roundtable to update the speed setting methodology in the OARs to a safe systems approach informed by best practices and national research currently underway by the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP).

SB 558 would complement development of a safe systems speed setting methodology by allowing cities, through ordinance, to systematically reduce the 25 mph statutory speed on non-arterial residential streets to 20 mph. Allowing speeds to be reduced on these residential streets supports safe interactions between people driving and people of all ages walking and biking and using mobility devices.

SB 558 is also in alignment with the 2016 Oregon Transportation Safety Action Plan Strategy 2.4.1 “Work with state, regional, tribal, county, and city agencies to implement best practices in setting design speeds and speed limits” and action 6.3.2 “Continue work between ODOT, cities, and counties to consider and revise, as appropriate, regulations and programs for establishing speed limits to achieve safety goals, improve balance among multimodal interests, and support community objectives”.

In closing, again, Eugene thanks you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of SB 558 and asks that you provide a ‘Do Pass’ recommendation for this bill.

Sincerely,



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