



March 6, 2019

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
SB 558: Relating to Speed Limits**

Clackamas County supports SB 558: The Board of County Commissioners supports SB 558, which authorizes cities to adjust speeds five miles per hour lower than statutory speeds, specifically on non-arterial highways located in residential districts.

Clackamas County participates in the nation-wide Toward Zero Deaths campaign, working towards eliminating traffic related deaths for our residents and visitors. Slower speeds are proven to reduce crash severity, particularly with vulnerable users including bicyclists and pedestrians.

While SB 558 is a good initial step, Clackamas County supports the -2 amendment, which expands speed limits under ORS 811.111(d) to include all roads, not just city roads, interstate freeways and certain segments of State highways.

Speed limits have the power to change speed culture in Oregon. Limits provide consistent interpretation of speed laws across the state and remove ambiguity between drivers and law enforcement officials. Additionally, limits condition speeding drivers to reduce speed overages, often resulting in a speeder going 5 miles over the posted limit rather than 10 to 15 miles over. This change is very important as part of the County's goal of eliminating fatal and serious injury crashes. From 2015-2017, there were 88 traffic fatalities in Clackamas County, with speed being a factor in over 30 of these cases.

We urge a "YES" vote for SB 558, including the -2 amendment.

Please contact Chris Lyons at clyons@clackamas.us for more information.