

PBOT

PORTLAND BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION

1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 800 Portland, OR 97204 503.823.5185
Fax 503.823.7576 TTY 503.823.6868 www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation

Chloe Eudaly Commissioner **Chris Warner** Interim Director

March 27, 2019

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

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

The City of Portland supports HB 2682, which clarifies that bicycle lanes continue in and through intersections where markings are interrupted. This clarification reflects how intersections are currently understood and used by drivers, bicyclists, street designers and enforcement officers.

City of Portland transportation staff has always considered bicycle lanes to continue through intersections, even when lane markings are interrupted. Traffic designers lay out intersections to support this “through” movement, and police officers assume bicycle lane continuation through intersections when they enforce traffic laws. Driver education and bicycle education classes teach people bicycling to continue straight through an intersection, and remind people driving to look right before turning at an intersection – especially on a street with a bicycle lane. The clarification offered by HB 2682 simply re-states clearly how intersections are currently understood and used.

Due to a recent court interpretation, HB 2682 is needed to clarify the interaction between bicyclists and motorists at intersections of streets with marked bicycle lanes. Without this bill, intersections could become unclear and more dangerous. Bicyclists in a bicycle lane could be expected to merge with the adjacent vehicle lane at every intersection, resulting in complicated and confusing interactions that introduce more conflict points. This would be a change from current use, requiring investment in striping, signage and education to notify people bicycling and people driving of the new expectation.

HB 2682 clarifies that bicycle lanes continue through intersections, contributing to a safer and smoother transportation environment for all users. The City of Portland strongly supports HB 2682.

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.