

HB 3304 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

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Meeting Dates: 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Department of Transportation to conduct a study regarding the impacts that the Department's state highway regulations have on rural downtown districts. Requires the Department to submit a report on its findings to an appropriate legislative committee by September 15 2022. Sunsets January 2, 2023. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces requirement for study with requirement for progress report on implementation and utilization of recommendations in report titled "Blueprint or Urban Design" dated January 2020. Specifies that Department is to solicit feedback from cities, counties, and community planning organizations impacted by state highway projects. Directs Department to submit report to Joint Committee on Transportation by September 15, 2022.

BACKGROUND:

There are a number of towns and cities in Oregon that have streets that are also state highways. Such arrangements require both the community and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to balance the needs of through traffic (including both personal vehicles and commercial trucks) with the needs of pedestrians, businesses, consumers, and residents of the local community.

Because state highways are managed by ODOT, those segments that pass through a downtown area are not under the jurisdiction of the local government, and thus any proposed changes are subject to review and approval by the Department. House Bill 3304 directs ODOT to conduct a study of the impact that its regulatory framework has on rural downtown districts.