

HB 2411 A -A3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Prepared By: Tim Walker, Fiscal Analyst

Meeting Dates: 6/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires notification and process for allowing interested telecommunications providers to coordinate with the Oregon Department of Transportation to include installation of underground broadband infrastructure as part of certain projects included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. Directs Oregon Broadband Office to develop registry of telecommunications providers in the state. Specifies program becomes operative January 1, 2022. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Coordination can lower the cost of broadband infrastructure
- Oregon Department of Transportation schedule of potential trenching projects
- Burying infrastructure preferable to above-ground, when possible
- Parties that would be notified under measure's provisions

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A3 Appropriates \$183,314 Other Funds to the Oregon Department of Transportation for the purposes of the bill.

BACKGROUND:

The Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is Oregon's capital improvement plan for projects funded by state and federal transportation funds. Projects are selected on a three-year rolling cycle that is developed by the Oregon Transportation Commission and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), in coordination with numerous stakeholders, local governments, and the general public. The process for selecting projects to be funded in 2021 began in 2017, and was finalized in 2020.

The STIP process consists of three steps: program allocation, which is the distributing of funding among programs such as system enhancements, preservation, safety, non-highway, and local roads; project selection including estimated costs and schedules; and public review and approval.

House Bill 2411 A requires ODOT to determine whether a proposed STIP project involving an interstate highway should be modified to accommodate the installation of broadband infrastructure. The measure directs ODOT to coordinate with interested telecommunications providers to determine whether a proposed project should be modified accordingly.