

HB 2411 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Economic Recovery and Prosperity

Action Date: 03/11/21

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Transportation by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 8-0-0-0

Yeas: 8 - Cate, Clem, Kropf, Levy, Lively, Prusak, Ruiz, Wallan

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/4, 3/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Broadband Office to develop registry of telecommunications providers, update registry at least once per year, and provide updated registry to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Requires ODOT to identify projects in State Transportation Improvement Program on an interstate highway that meet specified criteria, including construction of underground utility infrastructure, which could reasonably include, as determined by ODOT, installation of broadband conduit. Requires ODOT to notify telecommunications providers about identified projects and specifies requirements of notification. Specifies the guidance to be developed by ODOT for the procedures of engagement and coordination between ODOT and telecommunications providers. Becomes operative January 1, 2022. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Open trench notification to telecommunications providers
- Removal of barriers to expanding broadband access

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Requires Oregon Broadband Office to develop registry of telecommunications providers, update registry at least once per year, and provide updated registry to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Requires ODOT to identify projects in State Transportation Improvement Program on an interstate highway that meet specified criteria, including construction of underground utility infrastructure, which could reasonably include, as determined by ODOT, installation of broadband conduit. Requires ODOT to notify telecommunications providers about identified projects and specifies requirements of notification.

BACKGROUND:

The Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) capital improvement plan for state and federally funded projects. The Oregon Transportation Commission distributes funding among programs such as system enhancements, preservation, safety, non-highway, and local roads. The Commission and ODOT develop the STIP in coordination with a wide range of stakeholders and the public.

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