



March 10, 2021

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
HB 3049: Related to Permitting Fees for Counties

Clackamas County supports HB 3049: The Board of County Commissioners supports HB 3049, which allows counties the ability to charge fees to issue and administer utility permits in county right of ways. This ability is already afforded to cities, yet counties have been left with the bill when utility work occurs in the county's right of way.

Clackamas County manages 180 bridges and 1,400 miles of paved road, the most of all counties in Oregon. Under ORS 758.010, utilities providing a variety of services can operate within the county right of way free of charge. As the third most populated county in the state, Clackamas County sees frequent utility service needs within our right of way that is often costly to the county. Presently, this work is being subsidized by taxpayers who may not be benefiting from the increased utility service.

As the cost of managing and repairing roads continues to increase at the same time that traditional revenue streams are decreasing, counties need a solution that is forward looking and fair. Providing counties the ability to charge permitting fees to utilities will not only balance cost recovery authority with what cities can charge, but it will also mean some of the costs from utility work are inherently recovered, and thus allow counties to focus their limited transportation funds on other meaningful projects.

This bill is good for counties, good for roads, good for residents, and good for the visitors who drive on our roads.

We urge a "YES" vote on HB 3049.

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