

**Testimony of Anneliese Koehler, State and Regional Affairs Advisor
In Support of House Bill 2530
Joint Committee on Transportation
March 18, 2021**



Metro is the elected regional government that serves nearly 1.7 million people in the 24 cities and three counties of the Portland metropolitan area. We provide a broad range of public services that includes land use and transportation planning, solid waste and recycling operations, housing and homeless services, management of parks and natural areas, and operation of major visitor facilities like the Oregon Convention Center and the Oregon Zoo.

Metro strongly supports HB 2530 which expands the important safety benefits of fixed speed safety cameras throughout Oregon. Fixed speed safety cameras are proven to reduce speeding and serious crashes and are recommended by the National Transportation Safety Board as a critical safety intervention.

Speed is one of the leading factors contributing to traffic deaths and serious injuries: in 2019, 28 percent of traffic deaths in the greater Portland region involved speed. Crashes that occur at slower speeds are less likely to result in deaths and serious injuries. This is especially true for people that are hit while walking.

Metro's adopted traffic safety policies and strategies highlight the need to manage roadway speeds for safety, particularly on urban high crash corridors where 60 percent of serious crashes occur. Metro's adopted plans include specific actions that call for changes to state laws that currently limit city and county access to fixed speed safety cameras. Slowing speeds on our urban roadways is critical if we are to reach our adopted regional and statewide target of zero deaths and serious injuries by 2035.

In Portland, fixed speed safety cameras have been highly effective at reducing speeding on the city's high crash roadways. At safety camera locations, speeding has dropped by an average of 71 percent overall, with top-end speeding (more than ten miles per hour over the speed limit) declining by 94 percent. Other cities should be allowed to use this effective and affordable safety countermeasure.

HB 2530 will help make streets in the greater Portland region safer by allowing continued use of fixed speed safety cameras in Portland and expanding those safety benefits to other cities throughout the region and Oregon. Metro strongly supports HB 2530. Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony.