

HB 4053 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

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Meeting Dates: 2/8, 2/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Department of Transportation to conduct a study of Oregon Route 6 and report findings to Joint Committee on Transportation by September 15, 2023. Sunsets January 2, 2024. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

FISCAL -

REVENUE - no revenue impact on base measure

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- High number of crashes on the corridor
- Road features that make the corridor unsafe
- Insufficient traffic enforcement in corridor
- Impact of safety concerns on business in corridor

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon Route 6 is a state highway that connects the Oregon Coast to the Willamette Valley. Colloquially known as the Wilson River Highway, as it runs along the river's course on its western end, it intersects with U.S. Highway 101 in Tillamook at its western terminus and U.S. Highway 26 just east of Banks. The highway is part of the "Trees to Sea Scenic Byway," a 68-mile segment that includes the Tillamook State Forest, vineyards and wineries, restaurants, the Tillamook Creamery, and Cape Meares Lighthouse.

The Oregon Route 6 corridor has experienced a number of safety concerns during the last several years, including three fatal accidents in a one-week period in July 2021. All three accidents involved vehicles passing slower vehicles and experiencing head-on collisions.

House Bill 4053 requires the Oregon Department of Transportation to conduct a study of Oregon Route 6, which is to include an assessment of the conditions on the corridor, a list of deficiencies detected, and recommendations and cost assessment for addressing those deficiencies to return the corridor to a state of good repair.