

HB 4060 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, and Water

Action Date: 02/14/22

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

Vote: 10-1-0-0

Yeas: 10 - Helm, Marsh, McLain, Owens, Reardon, Scharf, Smith DB, Wilde, Williams, Witt

Nays: 1 - Cate

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/9, 2/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes the Oregon Department of Transportation to provide administrative, technical, and other assistance to state agencies, local governments, and community organizations related to federal funding opportunities that support natural resource related priorities, programs, or projects. Describes required kinds of assistance, including: 1) identifying, researching, and raising awareness about relevant federal funding opportunities; 2) providing technical assistance, guidance, or training to help with applications and compliance; 3) identifying opportunities to build knowledge and capacity within communities that have experienced underinvestment and across a diversity of stakeholders that interact with Oregon's natural resource policies and programs; 4) supporting state interagency coordination; 5) identifying gaps in state agency knowledge and capacity and coordinating with state agencies to develop capacity to address those gaps; and 6) identifying availability of nonfederal matching resources necessary to qualify for relevant federal funding opportunities. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Missed and upcoming opportunities for federal funding in Oregon
- Role of the Oregon Department of Transportation and the rationale for its selection as the program "hub"
- Importance of assistance to local communities and diverse stakeholder groups
- Potential for supporting programmatic areas beyond natural resources

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is a \$1.2 trillion federal infrastructure funding package that invests in safe drinking water, clean water, regional water protection, superfund clean-up, brownfields revitalization, waste and recycling, school bus decarbonization, pollution prevention, and other energy, broadband, and transportation infrastructure needs. Signed into law in November of 2021, federal agencies will be creating and awarding new formula and competitive grant funds and bolstering existing grant funding programs for state infrastructure projects. Federal guidance about these funding streams has yet to be finalized, but states are preparing themselves to apply for this funding.

House Bill 4060 A would authorize the Oregon Department of Transportation to provide administrative, technical, and other assistance to state agencies, local governments, and community organizations related to federal funding opportunities that support natural resource related priorities, programs, and projects.