

February 2, 2022  
House Committee on Rules  
Re: HB4105 - Relating to traffic offenses

Chair Smith Warner, Vice chairs Breese-Iverson and Fahey, and members of the committee:

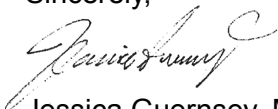
Multnomah County supports HB4105 with the -1 amendment, recognizing that automated traffic enforcement is an effective tool to increase safety and reduce speeding and red light running on high crash corridors. The effect of the bill and amendment would be to permit cities to employ traffic enforcement agents, in addition to sworn police officers, for the purpose of reviewing and issuing automated traffic citations. Under current law this function is limited to sworn officers, which reduces their capacity for other police priorities and also creates a costly barrier to use of automated enforcement.

This legislation is being considered at a time when traffic crash deaths are rising and racial disparities are widening. In 2021 more than 80 people died on roads in Multnomah County for the second consecutive year. Unintentional injuries, including those from traffic crash injuries, are the third leading cause of death in Multnomah County and the leading cause of death for people ages 1 to 45.<sup>1</sup> A County report published last year found that Black residents are unfairly burdened by these deaths, experiencing a death rate from traffic crash deaths that was nearly twice the rate of non-Hispanic white residents.<sup>2</sup>

Local jurisdictions need fewer barriers to implementing the life-saving safety intervention of automated speed enforcement, which is an evidence-based practice. Public Health institutions such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation have recognized automated enforcement as a safety intervention backed by strong scientific evidence. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation What Works for Health project also found that automated enforcement is likely to reduce health disparities.

Multnomah County urges your support for HB4105 and the -1 amendment. Thank you for considering these comments and for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Jessica Guernsey, MPH  
Public Health Division Director  
Multnomah County



Jamie Waltz  
Department of Community Services Director  
Multnomah County

---

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2019 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released in 2020. Data are for 2010-2019.

<sup>2</sup> [Multnomah County REACH Transportation Crash and Safety Report, 2021](#)