

## **HB 3349 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business**

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**Meeting Dates:** 3/30, 4/4

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes position of regional solutions infrastructure director. Establishes Infrastructure Council. Establishes duties of Infrastructure Council. Requires Infrastructure Council to report to interim committees of Legislative Assembly no later than December 31, 2024. Establishes Interagency Infrastructure Coordination Committee. Establishes Community Infrastructure Assistance Program within Oregon Business Development Department to provide grants for priority infrastructure projects. Establishes Community Infrastructure Fund. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

##### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-3 Replace measure. Requires Oregon Solutions to collaborative in development of infrastructure readiness hub for purpose of improving a community's awareness of, and access to state and federal funding opportunities related to natural or built infrastructure, including the ability to manage and successfully expend funds. The infrastructure funding readiness hub shall place particular emphasis on capacities to access and secure near-term federal funding opportunities.

Infrastructure funding readiness hub must include, but is not limited to following components: inventory of funding opportunities related to natural or built infrastructure; systems or processes to track state matching fund needs; mechanisms for ongoing statewide coordination to increase funding readiness, with particular emphasis on opportunities to increase federal funding readiness; recommendations to better align state and federal funding opportunities; identification of the needs of environmental justice communities, communities that have experienced historic lack of investment, communities that have infrastructure in need of critical upgrades and communities that have limited infrastructure, and opportunities to increase the federal funding readiness of those communities; and mechanisms to track the benefits and outcomes of a coordinated approach to infrastructure funding readiness.

Requires Oregon Solutions to coordinate with the Governor's Office, Regional Solutions Program state agencies with programs related to infrastructure funding and other relevant entities. Permits Oregon Solutions to award grants or stipends to entities that participate in the

collaborative development of the infrastructure funding readiness hub.

Requires Oregon Solutions to submit report on development of infrastructure funding readiness to Legislative Assembly no later than December 31, 2024.

Requires Oregon Solutions to enter into contracts with League of Oregon Cities, Association of Oregon Counties, Special Districts Association of Oregon, Oregon Economic Development Districts Association, Oregon Conservation Partnership, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Economic Development Corporation, Oregon Community Foundation to act as funding navigators within their respective areas of expertise. Specifies duties of funding navigators.

## HB 3349 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Appropriates \$3 million in General Fund to Oregon Solutions.  
Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

### **BACKGROUND:**

House Bill 3349 establishes the position of regional solutions infrastructure director. The director will supervise regional solutions teams assisting in a cohesive statewide approach to federal infrastructure funding, developed by the director and the Infrastructure Council. The director will be the chair of the Infrastructure Council and work with communities with limited infrastructure, infrastructure in need of critical upgrades, and those that have experienced historic disinvestment and tribal governments.

The measure establishes the Infrastructure Council. The Infrastructure Council is required to advise the governor on ways to improve Oregon's ability to access and spend federal infrastructure funding, raise public awareness, recommend projects, list opportunities, develop a clearinghouse, and develop a workforce strategy. It requires the Infrastructure Council to report to interim committees of Legislative Assembly no later than December 31, 2024.

In addition, HB 3349 establishes the Interagency Infrastructure Coordination Committee. The Interagency Infrastructure Coordination Committee is required to identify federal funding opportunities associated with their respective agency, develop strategies to connect federal funding opportunities across the state, and coordinate and streamline the following activities: permitting, applications process for state funding, technical assistance, applications process for federal funding, and plans for tribal consultation.

The measure establishes the Community Infrastructure Assistance Program and Community Infrastructure Fund within Oregon Business Development Department to provide grants for priority infrastructure projects. These projects can be natural or built infrastructure projects. Priority will be given to areas with high rates of poverty, with limited existing infrastructure, where lack of infrastructure is causing health or safety issues, and where there is an elevated risk of natural disaster requiring improved resiliency.