

## **SB 715 -1, -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Joint Committee On Transportation**

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**Prepared By:** Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 3/18, 5/5

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

Establishes the Cascadia High Speed Rail Task Force. Outlines membership, mission, and duties for the Task Force, including recommending legislation to legislative committees related to transportation. Designates Metro as staff for the Task Force. Sunsets January 2, 2029. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Rapid population growth in region
- Background on previous ODOT efforts
- Interconnected communities rely on local businesses

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

-1 Appropriates \$10 million from the General Fund to Metro to carry out provisions of the measure.

#### **FISCAL:**

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact on measure w/the -1 amendment

-2 The amendment specifies that the Task Force shall consult Metro in developing goals, visions, and outcomes. It also directs the Oregon Department of Transportation to provide technical support to the Task Force.

#### **FISCAL:**

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact on measure w/the -2 amendment

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Cascadia region is generally defined as stretching from Portland northward to Vancouver, British Columbia, connecting numerous cities and communities on or near the Interstate 5 corridor. The region has experienced a great deal of growth in recent decades, and anticipates continued growth through 2050. In 2008, the federal Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) established an initial framework for the development of high-speed rail corridors throughout the United States. That framework identified 10 future high-speed rail corridors (defined as reaching speeds of at least 110 miles per hour), including Vancouver, British Columbia to Portland, Oregon.