



Legislative Fiscal Office
83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly
2025 Regular Session

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Date: May 2, 2025

Bill Title: Relating to the Cascadia High Speed Rail Task Force; prescribing an effective date.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Department of Transportation, Counties, Cities, Task Force/Committee/Workgroup, Metro, Higher Education Coordinating Commission, TriMet

Summary of Fiscal Impact

2025-27 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Department of Transportation	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000,000	-	-
Total Fiscal Impact	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000,000	-	-
2027-29 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Department of Transportation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	-
Total Fiscal Impact	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	-

Measure Description

The measure creates the Cascadia High Speed Rail Task Force which is required to explore the possibility of investing in high-speed rail in the Portland Metro area, develop goals to guide early scenario planning study for high-speed rail in Oregon, identify steps to procure funding, engage with community partners, and study and make recommendations on any other matters pertaining to high speed rail in Oregon. The task force has a minimum of 12 members, with tribal governments also able to participate in the task force if desired. The bill directs Metro to provide staff support for the task force.

The measure includes a one-time appropriation of \$10 million General Fund to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for distribution to Metro to carry out the requirements of the measure. The measure stipulates the appropriation is continuously available until fully expended.

Fiscal Analysis

The total fiscal impact of the measure is a \$10 million General Fund for the 2025-27 biennium.

Oregon Department of Transportation

This measure appropriates \$10 million General Fund to ODOT to distribute to Metro. These funds can be administered using existing resources. ODOT is likely to transfer the funds to Metro in a lump sum during the 2025-27 biennium.

Metro

The \$10 million General Fund appropriated by this measure is to be distributed to Metro to carry out provisions of the measure, including the requirement of Metro to provide staff support to the task force. The Legislature

does not approve Metro's budget or limit their expenditures. An estimated \$400,000 of the appropriation would be used for task force meeting facilitation and coordination. Additionally, Metro proposes to use funds to support regional engagement and analysis of station area land use and access, economic and community benefits, and conceptual corridor scenarios, among other project and reporting costs.

Other Entities

The measure is anticipated to have a minimal fiscal impact on the Department of Transportation, Counties, Cities, and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for participation on the task force.

Relevant Dates

The bill takes effect on the 91st day after the Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die, and the task force sunsets on January 2, 2029.

The task force is to provide progress reports to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to rail transportation by January 1, 2027 and January 1, 2028, and to submit a final report by January 1, 2029.