SB 715 -1, -2   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

Prepared By:	Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst
Sub-Referral To:	Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Meeting Dates:	3/18, 5/6

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.

NOTE- Measure has subsequent referral to Committee on Ways and Means

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: Fiscal impact statement issued on measure w/the -1 amendment
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: Fiscal impact statement issued on measure w/the -2 amendment
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.