



Legislative Fiscal Office
83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly
2025 Regular Session

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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		\$ -	\$ 207,546	\$ -	\$ 207,546	1	0.75
Total Fiscal Impact	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 207,546	\$ -	\$ 207,546	1	0.75

2027-29 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Department of Transportation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 276,729	\$ -	\$ 276,729	1	1.00
Total Fiscal Impact	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 276,729	\$ -	\$ 276,729	1	1.00

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. In consultation with Metro and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), the task force is to develop goals, visions and outcomes to guide early scenario planning study for high speed rail in Oregon. The task force is also to 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, and ODOT to provide technical support to the task force including stakeholder engagement, evaluation of route options, conceptual design, environmental planning, and governance and financial analysis.

Fiscal Analysis

The total estimated fiscal impact is \$207,546 Other Funds in the 2025-27 biennium, including one position (0.75 FTE), and \$276,729 Other Funds, including one position (1.00 FTE) in the 2027-29 biennium.

Department of Transportation

To provide technical support to the task force, ODOT costs are anticipated to total \$207,546 Other Funds in the 2025-27 biennium, and \$276,729 Other Funds in the 2027-29 biennium. The agency would hire one limited duration full-time Program Analyst 3 position (0.75 FTE in the 2025-27 biennium and 1.00 FTE in the 2027-29 biennium) to provide the needed technical support directed under this measure, especially in regards to the conceptual design and environmental planning aspects of the work.

Metro

The Legislature does not approve Metro's budget or limit their expenditures. Metro estimates that costs to provide staff support to the task force will total \$133,333 in the 2025-27 biennium and \$266,667 in the 2027-29 biennium. This includes the costs of positions to facilitate task force scheduling, planning, and projects, and to provide operational support to the task force such as stakeholder coordination and development of materials.

Other Entities

The measure is anticipated to have a minimal fiscal impact on Counties, Cities, and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

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.