



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF OREGON

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## **Support Safer Highway Work Zones – Implement Automated Work Zone Speed Enforcement in Oregon Vote Yes on SB 711**

Highway Work Zones (ORS 811.230) means an area identified by advance warning when road construction, repair or maintenance work is being done by highway workers on or adjacent to a highway, regardless of whether highway workers are actually present.

Safety in highway work zones is a problem. The crash rates are higher and the impacts to families and communities are unacceptable and preventable.

Causes of crashes in work zones are often attributed to following too closely, excessive speed and inattentive or distracted driving. In addition, some drivers are unaware of the higher risks of driving through a highway work zone.

Oregon has seen a steady increase in the number of crashes and fatalities in work zones since COVID. There is a need to shift driver behavior and reduce speeds in work zones to minimize the risk of injuries and fatalities. This is especially true while highway workers are present in a work zone, where traffic patterns may have shifted, speeds are reduced and trucks or other heavy equipment may be present.

Why support SB 711?

- Improves the photo radar law already in place.
- Law enforcement is recognized as one of the most impactful ways to reduce speeds in a construction work zone.
- SB 711 leverages technology to perform enforcement at highway work zones, thus improving safety without increasing the burden on police resources.
- Additional revenue generated exceeding program costs shall be used for traffic safety purposes determined by ODOT in consultation with the Oregon State Police, including but not limited to costs associated with speed enforcement in highway work zones.
- Several states are implementing similar programs - Oregon should join them.

We respectfully ask the Joint Committee on Transportation to support SB 711.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Davis".

Alison Davis, Executive Director

[adavis@acecoregon.org](mailto:adavis@acecoregon.org)