



February 25, 2025

To: Joint Committee on Transportation  
RE: Please Support SB 711 – Protecting Highway Workers & Reducing Work Zone Crashes

Dear Chair McLain, Chair Gorsek, Vice Chair Boshart Davis, Vice Chair Starr, and Members of the Committee:

The Street Trust supports SB 711, which would improve safety in highway work zones by implementing automated speed enforcement when workers are present. This legislation is a necessary step to protect frontline transportation workers and reduce the increasing number of crashes, injuries, and fatalities in work zones.

Work zone crashes are an urgent safety crisis. [According to ODOT data \(2016-2020\)](#):

- An average of 6 people are killed in Oregon work zones each year.
- 25 people suffer serious injuries annually, with hundreds more sustaining lesser injuries.
- In 2020 alone, 399 work zone crashes occurred, including 337 with injuries and 6 fatalities.
- Near-miss reporting suggests the problem is even worse than these numbers indicate.

These crashes often result from excessive speed, driver inattention, and unsafe passing maneuvers—risks that SB 711 directly addresses through automated speed enforcement.

Behind these statistics are real people—workers struck by speeding or distracted drivers while simply doing their jobs. Automated enforcement has been proven to slow traffic and improve compliance with speed limits, making work zones safer for both workers and drivers.

The Street Trust has supported Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE) legislation since at least 2022 as a proven tool to increase traffic safety and

reduce serious crashes and injuries. While we are deeply committed to justice and equity in speed enforcement, we also care deeply about the health and safety of workers on our roads. They deserve the same protections from reckless driving that pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users do.

By leveraging technology, SB 711 enhances safety while reducing long-term costs by decreasing the number of sworn officers needed for traffic enforcement and reducing their exposure to danger on roadways. This approach ensures that reckless driving in active work zones has consequences while reinforcing existing signage and visibility measures.

At The Street Trust, we advocate for a transportation system that prioritizes safety, equity, and accountability. Every worker deserves to go home at the end of the day. A vote in favor of SB 711 is a vote for their safety, as well as for the well-being of all road users.

**We urge your YES vote on SB 711.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sarah Iannarone

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Executive Director, The Street Trust