

75TH OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
HOUSE REVENUE COMMITTEE

MEASURE: SB 36 A
CARRIER: Rep. Kahl

REVENUE: Issued - Revenue Impact

FISCAL: Issued - Fiscal Impact

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 10-0-0

Yeas: Bailey, Bentz, Berger, Bruun, Gelser, Kahl, Read, Riley, Sprenger, Barnhart

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Mazen Malik, Economist

Meeting Dates: 05/18

WHAT THE BILL DOES: Provides authorization to the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners to establish and collect tolls for the use of bridges across the Willamette River that are under its jurisdiction or are operated and maintained by the county.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Bridge maintenance needs.
- Annual liability of \$6 million a year.
- Comparison of tolling authority for state, Multnomah County and City of Portland.
- Ability to pay toll electronically or with cash, in efficient ways utilizing technology.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Oregon law specifies that the Department of Transportation is the road authority for all state highways, including interstate highways, while county governments are the road authorities for all county roads inside the boundaries of an incorporated city. There are currently eleven bridges that span the Willamette River in Multnomah County: two (Fremont and Markham) carry interstate highways; one carries a railroad; three (Steel, Ross Island and St. Johns) carry state highways; and five (Broadway, Burnside, Morrison, Hawthorne and Sellwood) are within the boundaries of the City of Portland but under the jurisdiction of the county. The Sauvie Island Bridge, which crosses a portion of the Willamette River known as the Multnomah Channel, is also under county jurisdiction.

The Sellwood Bridge is the only direct link between Lake Oswego/southwest Portland and Milwaukie/southeast Portland. Plans are currently under development for improving or replacing the bridge. Senate Bill 36-A authorizes the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners to levy tolls to cross any bridges across the Willamette River under the county's jurisdiction, as well as bridges operated and maintained by the county.

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