

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

House Committee on Transportation & Economic Development

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, statement not yet issued**FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued****SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: Ways and Means****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Troy Rayburn, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 2/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes West Coast Critical Infrastructure Exchange Task Force, consisting of 10 members: two appointees from the Oregon Senate; two appointees from the Oregon House of Representatives; four appointees from the Governor; one appointee from the Oregon Business Development Department; and one appointee from the State Treasurer. Directs task force to make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly regarding assessing the status of existing infrastructures and to develop and implement critical infrastructure projects, including but not limited to projects involving energy transmission and efficiency, water storage capacity, municipal water systems, and wastewater management. Requires the State Treasurer to provide staff support to the task force. Sunsets task force on June 30, 2015. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Tool that can be used for Oregon's next-generation infrastructure
- Tool that can be used for improvements or repairs to Oregon's existing infrastructure (bridges, court houses, highways, public health clinics, water hydro facilities, etc.)
- Review of British Columbia examples
 - Lessons learned (do not reinvent the wheel):
 - project life cycle
 - private / public funding
- Acquire collective interest and buy-in through Design-Build Model and Integrated Delivery Model
- Assure prevailing wage is included in request for proposals (RFP) or bid process
- Oregon's next steps:
 - Initiate stakeholder outreach and appointment of task force (research and advisory)
 - Prioritize projects and then project components or aspects
 - Develop a predictable process
 - Secure start-up funds
 - Capitalize on private sector expertise (outreach)
 - Do not set too many expectations that are not deliverable

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**BACKGROUND:**

California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia have combined to form the West Coast Infrastructure Exchange (WCX). The Rockefeller Foundation provided two grants totaling \$750,000 for initial financing or start-up costs.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

The WCX is designed to tap the expertise of development and finance leaders to save money and find innovative financing methods.

The WCX proposes to achieve cost savings and better collaboration to make infrastructure projects more feasible. Some examples of what the Exchange proposes to accomplish include: manage projects more effectively; collaborate with industry experts and innovators; help connect governments to expertise to help design and build projects; and connect projects to innovative financing, including potentially private capital

In the early stages, small-scale energy and water projects are a top priority for some jurisdictions, but the Exchange could serve an array of project types -- big and small -- in the future. None have been selected yet because participants are deciding which services the Exchange will deliver and how projects will be identified.

Some examples of existing projects that have utilized innovative financing are outlined on the Exchange's web site: www.westcoastx.com