



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

Department of Transportation

Director's Office
355 Capitol St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

DATE: February 5, 2014

TO: House Committee on Transportation and Economic Development

FROM: Paul Mather, Administrator
Highway Division

SUBJECT: HB 4095

INTRODUCTION

House Bill 4095 requires the Oregon Department of Transportation to notify Internet service providers (ISPs) when highway projects are in the planning stages. The bill directs ODOT to coordinate with interested ISPs for the installation of Internet lines within state highway right-of-way when the department has a project underway.

DISCUSSION

HB 4095 sets up a process to allow internet service providers to notify ODOT if they want to be contacted about future highway projects. The bill would require ODOT to determine, during the planning for a highway project, whether Internet lines could be installed in the highway right of way. ODOT would then notify the Internet service providers during the planning and design, and coordinate with them to install new Internet lines during project construction.

Current law allows all utilities to locate within state highway right-of-way; ODOT may place reasonable requirements on the utilities to ensure the highway system is not compromised.

ODOT has agreed to work with Rep. Parrish and the industry representing Internet service providers in lieu of a bill. We believe we can work cooperatively to meet the needs of the ISPs and to facilitate the expansion of service lines to rural parts of Oregon without the need for legislation. ODOT will reach out to these service providers to determine how best to notify them of our projects and the opportunity for them to install internet service lines along highways. .

SUMMARY

HB 4095 would set up a process for ODOT to notify Internet service providers of upcoming highway projects. ODOT will reach out to the industry to determine the needs of the ISPs and how best the agency can assist with the expansion of rural Oregon Internet service.

Attachment: Letter to Rep. Parrish



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Department of Transportation

Director's Office
355 Capitol St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

February 4, 2014

The Honorable Julie Parrish
Oregon State Representative
900 Court St. NE, H-390
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representative Parrish:

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) commits to working with those representing Internet service providers on ways the agency can support the expansion of Internet service lines adjacent to Oregon state highways.

ODOT will reach out to the Oregon Telecommunications Association to determine how best to notify ISPs about upcoming highway projects and to coordinate with them on the installation of service lines during these projects.

Under current law, ISPs, as well as other utilities, are allowed to locate utility lines along state highway right of way free of charge. The law allows for ODOT to place reasonable requirements on the utility to ensure the highway system is not compromised. It is rare that ODOT cannot work out a way to accommodate the utility while still protecting the highway system. ODOT also works with utilities when lines need to be relocated because of a highway project.

Our commitment is to engage Internet service providers earlier in the project development process so that they can take advantage of opportunities. We hope that these efforts will result in the expansion of Internet service all across Oregon.

Sincerely,

Matthew L. Garrett
Director