

PBOT

PORTLAND BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION

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Steve Novick Commissioner **Leah Treat** Director

May 20, 2015

The Honorable Val Hoyle, Chair
House Rules Committee
900 Court Street NE, HR 50
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Hoyle and Members of the Committee:

The City of Portland is writing in support of the -2 amendments to House Bill 2736, creating the Task Force on Vision Zero.

This important legislation brings key experts and decision-makers together in Oregon to help tackle the complex and multi-faceted issue of traffic safety. The safety of our roads directly impacts the health and livability of families and neighborhoods. Traffic fatalities are not inevitable. We must work together to build a strategy for achieving Vision Zero. The creation of a statewide Vision Zero Task Force will help tackle the diversity of problems impacting traffic safety, and provide recommendations to inform the next Oregon Transportation Safety Action Plan.

Over the past 20 years, the number of pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists killed on City of Portland roadways each year has remained stubbornly flat. On average 37 Portlanders die in traffic collisions annually, including 12 pedestrians, 2 bicyclists, and 24 motorists. Earlier this year the City of Portland adopted the goal of Vision Zero, which acknowledges that even one death or serious injury on Portland's roadways is too many. The Portland Bureau of Transportation is committed to developing a Vision Zero safety strategy that outlines how street design, traffic enforcement, and education can help achieve this vision. Working with multiple jurisdictions and partners, with different expertise, will be the only way to bring traffic fatalities to zero.

We urge your support for the creation of the Task Force on Vision Zero. By bringing a diverse and committed group of transportation users and experts together through the Task Force, Oregon's transportation system can be made safer.

Sincerely,


Director Leah Treat



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