

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Transportation and Economic Development

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** Revenue impact issued**Action Date:** 04/17/15**Action:** Without Recommendation, With Amendments, Be Printed Engrossed And Be Referred To Ways And Means.**Meeting Dates:** 03/09, 04/17**Vote:**

Yeas: 4 - Gorsek, Lively, McKeown, McLain

Nays: 2 - Bentz, Davis

Exc: 1 - Hack

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, Committee Administrator**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Authorizes the City of Portland to operate fixed photo-radar systems on high-crash urban corridors. Requires review of photographic evidence by officer prior to issuing citation. Specifies that citation revenues be used only for operation and maintenance costs of system and for improving traffic safety for all modes of transportation. Sunsets January 1, 2024.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- High incidents of injury and fatal accidents on certain roads in Portland
- Types of photo radar machines
- Compensation models for providers of photo radar devices
- Use of manned and unmanned photo radar in Oregon and other states
- Need for education, engineering, encouragement and enforcement
- Correlation between speed and fatality rate for vehicle-pedestrian accidents

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces term “photo radar unit” with “fixed photo radar system.” Replaces provisions relating to police officers reviewing video recordings with review of photographic evidence. Requires outcome evaluation to include review of process for administering fixed photo radar system. Requires conformity with specifications for traffic control devices approved by Oregon Transportation Commission under ORS 810.200. Replaces term “certificate” with “affidavit.” Specifies that, notwithstanding ORS 153.675, amounts paid from citations be used only for operation and maintenance costs of system and for improving traffic safety for all modes of transportation.

BACKGROUND:

There are currently 11 cities in Oregon (Albany, Beaverton, Bend, Eugene, Fairview, Gladstone, Medford, Milwaukie, Oregon City, Portland and Tigard) that are statutorily permitted to use photo radar devices to enforce speed limits on segments of public roads. The photo radar devices are limited to use in residential areas or school zones or in other locations if a local governing body finds that speed has a negative impact on safety. Use of the devices is limited to four hours per day in a given location; Fairview was authorized, under a pilot program during 2014, to operate in school zones during the hours between 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM. Cities operating photo radar are required to submit biennial reports to the Legislative Assembly outlining the results of required process and outcome evaluations of their photo radar programs.