

From: John August Russell
To: [HTP Exhibits](#)
Subject: Support for HB2682
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My name is John Russell, and as a seventh-generation Oregonian and former ODOT employee, I believe it is important for the Portland Bureau of Transportation and other local agencies to be able to set their own speed limits without ODOT's blessing for a number of reasons. First among these is safety, as there is no doubt that lower speed limits save lives. Secondly, it will save the state money and reduce bureaucracy if the state's concurrence is no longer required. Currently, the process to change a local speed limit is delayed by needless red tap and other bureaucratic hurdles. Allowing municipalities to revise their own speed limits will give them the ability to quickly react to dangerous conditions, such as many pedestrian deaths on outer SE Division. Lastly, due to these larger faster roadways more commonly being located in less affluent communities, and leading disproportionately to negative impacts to poor and minority populations, this law will better allow cities to address transportation equity issues and make our roads safer for ALL, not just those able to afford to live in more desirable locations.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony.

John Russell
360.901.9811
jr98664@gmail.com
Sent from my iPhone