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**Testimony on HB 2682  
May 22, 2016**

AARP is pleased to support HB 2682, a bill that authorizes City of Portland to designate speed that is five miles per hour lower than statutory speed when highway is located in residence district and highway is not arterial highway.

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan social welfare organization with a nationwide membership of nearly 38 million and 500,000 in Oregon. We work to improve quality of life for all as we age, strengthen our communities, and fight for the issues that matter most to families. An important aspect of our work in Oregon is advocating for livable and age-friendly communities, including safe streets so that people can get around easily and safely regardless of what mode they rely on.

AARP supports City of Portland's Vision Zero Action Plan. We believe that traffic fatalities and serious injuries from crashes are avoidable and intolerable. Speed plays a critical role in road traffic injury and death. Higher speeds mean higher risk of injury and death, especially for pedestrians and especially for older pedestrians. Older road users are overrepresented in both vehicle and pedestrian crash fatalities. According to the *State of Pedestrian Safety* report from Oregon Walks, people 65 and over make up 13.6% of all Oregonians, but they accounted for over 22% of pedestrian fatalities in our state's streets and roads. An older pedestrian who is struck by a vehicle is 52 percent more likely to die than a younger pedestrian.

AARP research tells us that 90% of people 65 and older want to remain in their homes and communities as they get older. Being able to get around the neighborhood streets safely is a critical element in aging in place. A man who is 70 years old today is likely to outlive driving by 6 years. A woman who is 70 is likely to outlive her driving years by 11 years. Get around safely on foot in their own neighborhood means independence and quality of life, it should not mean injury and death.

On behalf of the over half million AARP members ages 50+ statewide, we urge you to support HB 2682. Slower speed, even of just 5 miles per hour, can mean a difference between injury and death. Our streets should work for us and reducing speed will mean fewer traffic crashes and death and injury for the most vulnerable groups, especially pedestrians, cyclists, older adults, and people of color.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to make our region an age-friendly and livable place for people of all ages and abilities.

