



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Transportation

Director's Office

355 Capitol St. NE, MS 11

Salem, OR 97301

**DATE:** February 27, 2019

**TO:** House Committee on Economic Development

**FROM:** Lindsay Baker, ODOT Government Relations Manager

**SUBJECT:** HB 2173-2 – Oregon Broadband Office

## INTRODUCTION

HB 2173-2 establishes the Oregon Broadband Office within the Oregon Business Development Department, charges the office with initiatives related to broadband infrastructure development, establishes public policies that address the digital divide, and makes membership changes to the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council.

## DISCUSSION

HB 2173-2 is a continuation of the work of Executive Order 18-31, of which ODOT has been an active participant. As Oregon's transportation system continues to evolve, access to a robust broadband network will help position ODOT to deliver a safe, reliable, and efficient transportation system. Additionally, broadband expansion represents a unique opportunity to connect communities across the state, deliver reliable communication and services, and drive expansion to unserved and underserved parts of our state.

The Oregon Department of Transportation strives to support communities across Oregon through maintenance and enhancement of our transportation system; broadband infrastructure builds upon that vision by recognizing and leveraging ODOT's existing statewide assets as critical in achieving our state's overall goals. The -2 amendment will help ODOT achieve these goals, by providing ODOT a seat on the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council.

## SUMMARY

HB 2173-2 creates the Oregon Broadband Office to continue the work of Executive Order 18-31 and names ODOT as a member of the Broadband Council. ODOT appreciates the opportunity to partner with its sister agencies and external stakeholders to inform conversations around the state's broadband initiatives.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Baker  
Government Relations Manager  
Oregon Department of Transportation