



Home of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

March 5, 2019

City of Sherwood
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City Manager
Joseph Gall, ICMA-CM

Senator Lee Beyer, Co-Chair
Representative Caddy McKeown, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Transportation
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for Senate Bill 558

Dear Co-Chairs and Committee members,

As Mayor for the City of Sherwood, I am writing to support Senate Bill 558, on which your committee is conducting an informational meeting on Wednesday, March 6, 2019. This bill would allow local decision-making at the city level to consider lowering speed limits by five miles per hour in certain residential areas.

According to our Sherwood Police Chief Jeff Groth, traffic complaints, including excessive speeding in residential neighborhoods, are the most common complaints among our residents. This has become a more significant issue as navigation applications like Waze and Google Maps are routing through traffic onto our residential streets as our major arterials become congested during peak hours.

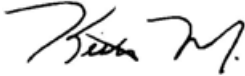
Many of these residential streets are near our schools with significant pedestrian traffic during rush hour in the mornings. Recent trends to narrow residential streets to reduce long term street maintenance costs and increase density have made it more difficult to see and avoid pedestrians. A 2011 AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety study found that the fatality rate for pedestrian involved accidents drops 50% when you reduce a vehicles speed from 25 miles per hour to 20 miles per hour.

As part of our traffic calming program we are consistently looking for new tools and methodologies to address this safety issue within our own community and passage of this legislation would provide another local option. The legislature previously provided the City of Portland the option to

lower speed limits by five miles per hour in certain locations. As Sherwood's Mayor, I would request that you allow other cities within Oregon the same types of tools that the City of Portland currently enjoys as a local jurisdiction.

Thank you as always for your collective service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Mays". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Keith" and the last name "Mays" clearly distinguishable.

Keith Mays
Mayor