

PBOT

PORTLAND BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION

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Chloe Eudaly Commissioner **Chris Warner** Interim Director

March 18, 2019

Senator Lee Beyer and Representative Caddy McKeown, Co-Chairs
Joint Committee on Transportation
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Beyer and McKeown and Members of the Committee:

The City of Portland supports SB 559, which expands the safety benefits of fixed speed safety cameras to other cities in Oregon. Applying this tool in a data-driven manner to reduce speeding has significantly benefited safety on Portland streets.

In 2015, the Legislature passed HB 2621 authorizing Portland to use fixed speed safety cameras on high crash corridors. There are currently eight cameras on four high crash corridors. On average, these cameras reduced speeding by 59 percent and top end speeding—traveling more than ten miles per hour over the speed limit—by 85 percent.

Portlanders have embraced the fixed speed safety cameras. In a recent survey conducted by a third-party research firm, three-quarters of respondents supported the use of fixed speed safety cameras saying that they are reliable, unbiased and an effective way to reduce speeding and crashes.

Speed is a critical factor in making streets safer. Crashes that occur at slower speeds are less likely to result in deaths and serious injuries. A pedestrian hit by a driver at 40 mph is more than twice as likely to die than a pedestrian hit by a driver at 30 mph. Fixed speed safety cameras can help lower speeds quickly and effectively by offering around-the-clock, consistent speed deterrence.

SB 559 provides access to proven traffic safety tools for cities across Oregon. The City of Portland strongly supports SB 559.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,



Chris Warner, Interim Director



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