

**DATE: April 29, 2019**

**TO: Chairs Beyer and Mckeown, Vice-Chairs Noble and Boquist, Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation**

**FROM: Mike Eliason, Interim Executive Director, Association of Oregon Counties**

**RE: House Bill 2770 -3 Amendment**

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Chairs Beyer and Mckeown, Vice-Chairs Noble and Boquist, Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

The Oregon Association of County Engineers and Surveyors (OACES), an affiliate of the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC), represents county public works agencies and road departments across the state and provides a forum to share best practices and overcome challenges. County roads are a critical component of Oregon's integrated road system and are responsible for the largest share of Oregon's road system, with 26,670 miles under county jurisdiction (39%). The county road system also includes 3,421 bridges and approximately 26,000 culverts.

The Association of Oregon Counties supports House Bill 2770 -3.

Counties have an increasing interest in autonomous vehicles as they become a viable alternative to traditional vehicles and have the potential to decrease congestion, increase the efficiency of freight, and improve mobility and safety. There are still many unknowns concerning the future of autonomous vehicle (AV) technology which makes the Autonomous Vehicles Taskforce an important resource for local government to stay connected and engage in policy decisions.

As instructed by House Bill 4063 passed in 2018, the task force tackled a wide range of subjects during their first year and included representation from all levels of government. Counties were well represented with both Chair Sheriff Tannenbaum from Washington County and former Commissioner Sid Leiken from Lane County participating. Now into the second year, the group is working through a new set of issues including an Infrastructure Subgroup that seeks to identify potential steps to prepare Oregon's roads for testing and deployment.

Counties are particularly interested in the changing needs of our transportation system. With 39% of all roads under county jurisdiction, counties will be at the forefront of any infrastructure changes required to accommodate AV technology and the potential impact it will have on transportation funding. County roads are often rural, many unpaved, which creates challenges for autonomous technology.

House Bill 2770 -3 lays a necessary foundation for local and state government to begin interacting with autonomous technology and sets the stage for future innovations that will allow autonomous vehicles to operate safely across Oregon's road system. We appreciate the

opportunity to engage in the conversation and look forward to continuing the work to prepare Oregon for the inevitable transition to autonomous technology.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on HB 2770 -3.

Sincerely,



Mike Eliason

Interim Executive Director

Association of Oregon Counties