



**Testimony by City of Wilsonville Mayor Tim Knapp Supporting HB 4103:**

***Proposed Legislation Allows Communities to  
Set Speed Limits on Local Roads***

Scheduled for public hearing on February 4, 2020, before the Joint Committee on Transportation

**Co-Chairs Beyer and McKeown, and Members of the Committee:**

On behalf of the City of Wilsonville City Council, I am testifying in support of HB 4103, which permits Oregon communities to set speed limits on local roads under certain conditions set by the Oregon Department of Transportation.

In 2017, the City of Portland received local speed setting authority from the legislature to reduce residential speeds from 25 to 20 mph. Other communities would appreciate the opportunity to provide safer roadways on those occasions when local leaders deem appropriate.

Managing speeds in a way that is responsive to the urban environment, including the complex interactions of people moving by multiple modes, is critical to achieving safe streets. In the context of an urban environment, concerns about vehicle speeds on neighborhood, school, and arterial roadways is a major barrier to students' ability to walk or roll to school and other destinations, and requests for lower speed limits top the list in School Action Plans across the state. Delegating local speed setting authority to cities will allow for speeds to be set more quickly, efficiently and consistently across street types.

In 2018, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety found that "lowering the speed limit in urban areas is an effective countermeasure to reduce speeds and improve safety for all road users." Slower speeds reduce both the number of crashes and the severity of crashes due to the speed differential between young students and vehicles traveling on the roadway. At slower speeds, people driving can stop more quickly, avoiding a crash altogether, and when a collision does occur, there is less of a chance of death or serious injury.

The City of Wilsonville respectfully urges a DO PASS vote on HB 4103. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tim Knapp, Mayor  
City of Wilsonville