

PBOT

PORTLAND BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION

1120 SW Fifth Ave, Suite 1331, Portland OR 97204

Main: 503-823-5185 TTY: 503-823-6868 Fax: 503-823-7576 Portland.gov/Transportation

Jo Ann Hardesty Commissioner **Chris Warner** Director

March 12, 2021

Senator Lee Beyer, Co-Chair
Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Transportation
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

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

The City of Portland strongly supports HB 3357 with the -2 amendment, which would allow a duly authorized traffic enforcement agent to review and issue automated enforcement citations. This bill will provide cities across Oregon with flexibility to efficiently manage and expand automated enforcement programs that have been shown to increase traffic safety.

Automated enforcement is a proven safety tool. Many national studies and highway safety organizations point to speed as a critical factor in street safety. Crashes that occur at slower speeds are less likely to result in death and serious injury. In Portland, automated speed safety cameras have been remarkably successful at slowing speeds. On corridors with cameras, speeding has dropped by an average of 71 percent and top-end speeding (more than ten miles per hour over the speed limit) by 94 percent. This validates research nationally and internationally that confirms the effectiveness of automated enforcement. This bill would give Portland the option to expand the use of this proven safety tool as part of a comprehensive roadway safety strategy.

Reviewing automated enforcement citations does not require sworn officers, who are needed for other priorities. Currently, sworn police officers review all violations flagged by automated enforcement cameras. This review process ensures that drivers who are photographed by the cameras are correctly identified. If the photo does not match the DMV record associated with the vehicle, the reviewer dismisses the violation and no citation is issued. Comparing the camera photos with DMV records is an important task, but it does not require the extensive training and broad skill set required of a sworn police officer. Similar to the role of a parking enforcement officer, a duly authorized traffic enforcement agent would increase capacity to review lower-level citations, freeing up sworn police officers to do other critical work that relies on the skills for which only they have been trained.

Updating the review process will allow for system expansion and increased efficiency. Expanding automated enforcement is a key component of Portland's multi-faceted work to make streets safer. Today, police staffing constraints are a barrier to program delivery and expansion. HB 3357 would allow for sensible options to address that bottleneck. Enabling citation review by traffic enforcement agents who are not sworn police officers will serve several important functions. It will allow for traffic safety program expansion to protect the public well-being. It will free up sworn police officers to perform other critical functions. And it will help create a more efficient system that does not rely on overtime pay to keep up with citation review.

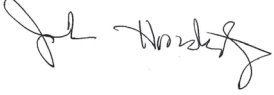


The City of Portland ensures meaningful access to city programs, services, and activities to comply with Civil Rights Title VI and ADA Title II laws and reasonably provides: translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats, auxiliary aids and services. To request these services, contact 503-823-5185, City TTY 503-823-6868, Relay Service: 711.

Automated enforcement is a powerful, proven tool that raises public awareness, reduces speeding and make streets safer. HB 3357 with the expected amendment is critical to support expansion of this safety program and ensure program efficiency.

The City of Portland strongly supports HB 3357 with the -2 amendment. Thank you for your consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jo Ann Hardesty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "H".

Jo Ann Hardesty, Commissioner
City of Portland