

SB 445 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Rural Traffic Safety Grant Fund for the purpose of providing grants to cities with a population of 15,000 or fewer for installation and improvement of traffic control devices and crosswalks. Appropriates \$20 million from the General Fund for deposit in the Rural Traffic Safety Grant Fund. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

NOTE - measure has subsequent referral to the Committee on Ways and Means

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon distributes revenues from the State Highway Fund to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), counties, and to cities, based on a roughly 50-30-20 formula. After withdrawal for certain other specified uses, 50 percent is disbursed to the ODOT for modernization, maintenance, and preservation of the state highway system; counties, in aggregate, receive approximately 30 percent, which is distributed on the basis of the ratio of number of registered vehicles in that county relative to all 36 counties; and approximately 20 percent is distributed to individual cities based on population relative to the overall city population statewide.

Many of Oregon's cities have populations small enough that the allotment they receive from the State Highway Fund is insufficient to undertake significant projects. The Small City Allotment Program allocates \$5 million per year to provide grants to cities with populations of 5,000 or fewer residents. Applications are accepted during July and August of each year, and are awarded in November of each year, and the maximum award allowed is \$250,000.

Senate Bill 445 creates the Rural Traffic Safety Grant Fund to provide grants to rural cities, defined as having a population of no more than 15,000 residents. Under the program, cities could apply for grants of up to \$2.5 million (per biennium) for installation of crosswalks and traffic control devices. The measure appropriates \$20 million from the General Fund to the program.