

## **HB 3349 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business**

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**Meeting Dates:** 3/30, 4/4

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes regional solutions infrastructure director. Establishes Infrastructure Council. Establishes duties of Infrastructure Council. Requires Infrastructure Council to report to interim committees of Legislative Assembly no later than December 31, 2024. Establishes Interagency Infrastructure Coordination Committee. Establishes Community Infrastructure Assistance Program within Oregon Business Development Department to provide grants for priority infrastructure projects. Establishes Community Infrastructure Fund. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

##### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

##### **BACKGROUND:**

House Bill 3349 establishes the regional solutions infrastructure director. The director will supervise regional solutions teams assisting in a cohesive statewide approach to federal infrastructure funding, developed by the director and the Infrastructure Council. The director will be the chair of the Infrastructure Council and work with communities with limited infrastructure, infrastructure in need of critical upgrades, communities that have experienced historic disinvestment and tribal governments.

The measure establishes the Infrastructure Council. The Infrastructure Council is required to advise the governor on ways to improve Oregon's ability to access and spend federal infrastructure funding, raise public awareness, recommend projects, list opportunities, develop a clearinghouse, develop a workforce strategy, and report to the legislature. It requires the Infrastructure Council to report to interim committees of Legislative Assembly no later than December 31, 2024.

House Bill 3349 establishes the Interagency Infrastructure Coordination Committee. the Interagency Infrastructure Coordination Committee is required to identify federal funding opportunities associated with their respective agency, develop strategies to connect federal funding equitably across the state, and coordinate the following activities: permitting processes, reduce the number and complexity of state funding applications, deliver technical assistance, apply for federal funding where agency coordination is required, and plan for tribal consultation to create opportunity and lower barriers.

The measure establishes the Community Infrastructure Assistance Program within Oregon Business Development Department to provide grants for priority infrastructure projects. These projects can be natural or built infrastructure projects. Priority will be given to areas with high rates of poverty, with limited existing infrastructure, where lack of infrastructure is causing health or safety issues, and where there is an elevated risk of natural disaster requiring improved resiliency.

The measure establishes Community Infrastructure Fund. There is currently a blank in the measure to appropriate an amount into the fund.