

A-Engrossed
House Bill 3349

Ordered by the House April 10
Including House Amendments dated April 10

Sponsored by Representatives HELM, OWENS; Representative DIEHL

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

[Establishes regional solutions infrastructure director within Regional Solutions Program.]
[Establishes Infrastructure Council. Describes duties of council. Directs council to submit 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.]

Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission to enter into agreement with Oregon Solutions at Portland State University to develop infrastructure funding readiness hub and enter into agreements with specified organizations to perform functions of funding navigator.
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to infrastructure; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1)(a) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission, in consultation with**
5 **the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, shall enter into an agreement with**
6 **Oregon Solutions at Portland State University to:**

7 (A) Assess interest in and convene, as appropriate, entities to collaboratively develop an
8 infrastructure funding readiness hub, as described in subsection (2) of this section; and

9 (B) Enter into agreements with the entities described in subsection (4) of this section to
10 perform the functions of funding navigators, as provided in subsection (3) of this section.

11 (b) The agreement entered into under paragraph (a)(A) of this subsection shall provide
12 for the amount of \$300,000 to be paid to Oregon Solutions to facilitate the collaborative de-
13 velopment of the infrastructure funding readiness hub.

14 (2)(a) The purpose of the infrastructure funding readiness hub is to improve, for com-
15 munities in this state, awareness of and access to state and federal funding opportunities
16 related to natural or built infrastructure, including the ability to manage and successfully
17 expend funds. The infrastructure funding readiness hub shall place particular emphasis on
18 capacities to access and secure near-term federal funding opportunities. The infrastructure
19 funding readiness hub shall include, but need not be limited to, the following components:

20 (A) An inventory of funding opportunities related to natural or built infrastructure;

21 (B) Systems or processes to track state matching fund needs;

22 (C) Mechanisms for ongoing statewide coordination to increase funding readiness, with
23 particular emphasis on opportunities to increase federal funding readiness;

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **(D) Recommendations to better align state and federal funding opportunities;**

2 **(E) Identification of the needs of environmental justice communities, as defined in ORS**
3 **182.535, communities that have experienced historic lack of investment, communities that**
4 **have infrastructure in need of critical upgrades and communities that have limited**
5 **infrastructure, and opportunities to increase the federal funding readiness of those commu-**
6 **nities; and**

7 **(F) Mechanisms to track the benefits and outcomes of a coordinated approach to**
8 **infrastructure funding readiness.**

9 **(b) In developing the infrastructure funding readiness hub, Oregon Solutions at Portland**
10 **State University shall coordinate with the office of the Governor, the Regional Solutions**
11 **Program established under ORS 284.754, the entities described in subsection (4) of this sec-**
12 **tion, state agencies with programs related to infrastructure funding and other relevant en-**
13 **tities. Oregon Solutions at Portland State University may award grants or stipends to**
14 **entities that participate in the collaborative development of the infrastructure funding**
15 **readiness hub.**

16 **(c) Oregon Solutions at Portland State University, in coordination with the entities de-**
17 **scribed in subsection (4) of this section, shall submit a report on the development of the**
18 **infrastructure funding readiness hub, in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, to the appro-**
19 **priate interim committees of the Legislative Assembly no later than December 31, 2024.**

20 **(3) Working in coordination with the infrastructure funding readiness hub, funding**
21 **navigators shall perform, or enter into contracts to have performed, functions in their re-**
22 **spective areas of expertise that include but are not limited to:**

23 **(a) Increasing access to information, resources and assistance for navigating available**
24 **funding opportunities related to natural or built infrastructure, with a focus on near-term**
25 **federal funding opportunities;**

26 **(b) Developing an inventory of state matching funds needed to secure federal funding for**
27 **natural or built infrastructure;**

28 **(c) Identifying barriers to accessing state and federal funding opportunities, or securing**
29 **state or local matching funds, for natural or built infrastructure and providing recommen-**
30 **dations to address barriers; and**

31 **(d) Assessing and supporting capacity at the community level to secure and expend**
32 **infrastructure funding.**

33 **(4)(a) Oregon Solutions at Portland State University shall enter into agreements with the**
34 **following entities to perform the functions of a funding navigator:**

35 **(A) The League of Oregon Cities, to perform the functions of a funding navigator as they**
36 **relate to cities.**

37 **(B) The Association of Oregon Counties, to perform the functions of a funding navigator**
38 **as they relate to counties.**

39 **(C) The Special Districts Association of Oregon, to perform the functions of a funding**
40 **navigator as they relate to special districts.**

41 **(D) The Oregon Economic Development Districts Association, to perform the functions**
42 **of a funding navigator as they relate to economic development districts and partner organ-**
43 **izations.**

44 **(E) The Oregon Conservation Partnership, to perform the functions of a funding**
45 **navigator as they relate to conservation groups.**

1 **(F) The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Economic Development Corporation, to**
2 **perform the functions of a funding navigator as they relate to tribal governments.**

3 **(G) The Oregon Community Foundation, to perform the functions of a funding navigator**
4 **as they relate to community-based organizations.**

5 **(b) The agreements entered into under this subsection shall provide for the amount of**
6 **\$300,000 to be paid to each of the entities described in paragraph (a)(A) to (G) of this sub-**
7 **section to perform the functions of a funding navigator.**

8 **SECTION 2.** **In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-**
9 **ated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for the biennium beginning July 1,**
10 **2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$2,400,000, which may be expended for entering**
11 **into the agreement with Oregon Solutions at Portland State University described in section**
12 **1 of this 2023 Act.**

13 **SECTION 3.** **This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
14 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect**
15 **on its passage.**