

PBOT

PORTLAND BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION

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February 15, 2024

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

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

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of HB 4067. The emergence of electric micromobility options in U.S. cities has had a major impact on local transportation systems, providing a greater range of transportation options that are cheaper, safer, more efficient, and more sustainable than driving alone. However, this shift has also raised questions of allocation of right-of-way, separation of speeds, access to mobility, and what kind of vehicles should be allowed where and when.

The City of Portland has first-hand experience with research and implementation of micromobility policy and regulation. We now have a permanent e-scooter program, which was created after extensive outreach and two pilot programs allowed us to better understand how e-scooters interact with the City's transportation needs and goals. Additionally, more than 1 million trips were taken on electric scooters in 2022 alone, more than any other year since the program began in 2018. We also have an electric bike-share program that has evolved over time to cover more areas and allow access for more people. BIKETOWN users took 565,000 trips in 2022 and ridership increased by 65% from 2021 to 2022. This is a complicated policy space, and we are glad to see that HB 4067 opens a way forward to explore and develop a strong, thoughtful policy framework.

Because electric micromobility has such a momentous impact on city streets in particular, we very much appreciate the change in the –8 amendment to create another seat on the task force for a city representative. It makes sense to include representation from both a larger and a smaller city due to the different needs of those jurisdictions. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment in support of HB 4067.

Sincerely,



Millicent Williams, Director
Portland Bureau of Transportation



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