



**Testimony Before the Joint Committee on Transportation  
Relating to Support of SB 558  
March 6, 2019**

**Submitted by Jim McCauley, Legislative Director League of Oregon Cities**

Co-Chair Beyer and Co-Chair McKeown and Members of the Committee:

As part of the League of Oregon Cities vetting process with members a package of speed/safety related bills were requested in advance of the 2019 session. Each of these bills present value to local communities looking for additional tools to improve safety in their neighborhoods and communities across Oregon.

This set of bills include the following:

[SB 558](#) – Authorizes city to designate speed for highway under city’s jurisdiction that is five miles per hour lower than statutory speed when highway is in residential district and highway is not arterial highway.

[SB 559](#) – Expands authority to operate fixed photo radar systems in high crash corridors to all cities. Makes permanent authority to operate fixed photo radar systems in high crash corridors.

[SB 560](#) – Expands authority for all cities to operate photo radar systems in high crash corridors.

These bills collectively expand authority that was granted to the City of Portland during the 2017 session to all cities. For today’s hearing SB 558 is a close mirror of HB 2682, which passed in 2017. HB 2682 provided the City of Portland the ability to establish speed limits in neighborhood streets five miles per hour below those set by the state.

Based on Portland’s experience in two short years their neighborhoods have responded favorably to the changes, which have led to improved safety and livability in their community. On a personal note I can attest to a positive change on my daily dog walking route in SW Portland. Five miles an hour does make a difference.

Livability and safety remain a very important part of what all cities envision for their community. Passage of SB 558 along with the other bills mentioned about provide that important tool for other cities across Oregon to use.

The League of Oregon Cities is asking for your support of SB 558.