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Rep. Gamba Introduces Legislation To Simplify Infrastructure Finance Process For Growing Cities

House Bill seeks to address cost and complexity barriers in the way of increased housing production.

SALEM, Ore. - Today, **Rep. Mark Gamba (D-Milwaukie)**, a former mayor and first term legislator presented his Infrastructure Finance Map ([HB 4155](#)) proposal that would simplify the patchwork of funding mechanisms he experienced as a city leader. He presented the concept during a public hearing before the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans.

Oregon cities spend *billions* of public dollars on critical infrastructure like roads, water treatment facilities, sewer lines, and much more. They rely on a complex patchwork of funding mechanisms to pay for this including property taxes, loans, bonds, and tax increment financing to name just a few. This complexity and cost is a contributor to the housing crisis and the state of Oregon has a vested interest in reducing it.

No one has ever taken a comprehensive look to identify what policy levers are available and how to make the financing of new projects simpler and more effective. Rep. Gamba has an answer.

“Oregon cities are increasingly circling the drain ever since the passage of Measures 5 and 50 several decades ago,” said Gamba, a chief sponsor of HB 4155. “Without new water treatment plants, sewer lines, roadways, or even libraries, it is physically impossible to build and accommodate the thousands of units of new housing we have to build every year. HB 4155 is a critical first step in mapping out all the barriers to construction of public infrastructure and charting a path out of this funding crisis.”

The committee also received testimony from Dan Sheets, Mayor of Monroe, Oregon. In a separate statement he said, “Monroe’s future depends on water and other infrastructure needs. Without new ways to access funding for water, wastewater, and streets, we will continue to fall behind, struggle to keep kids who were born and raised here in town, and reduce services while we wait for county, state and federal governments to collaborate on a solution. This is bigger

than just Monroe, it's about what is needed in every city across the state, and the highest good of all Oregonians.”

The House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans may schedule a work session as soon as next week to pass HB 4155 out of committee. The bill has a subsequent referral to Ways and Means.

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