



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

MAYOR: Lauren McLean

Testimony of Kathy Griesmyer
Oppose SB 1307: Removal of Front License Plates
Before Senate Transportation Committee
March 01, 2022

As the Government Affairs Director for the City of Boise, I write to you today to share our concerns with SB 1307, which would remove the requirement for a front license plate. In doing so, it would negatively impact public safety needs, as well as complicate coordinated parking efforts at our Boise Airport and downtown parking core.

From a public safety standpoint, police need to be able to identify vehicles that are not only suspected of criminal involvement or stolen property, but also for people requiring a welfare check. Capturing license plate information and running the registered owner and/or associates is often done by police prior to contacting occupants or attempting a stop to assess risk. Under SB 1307, the loss of a front license plate would greatly reduce the read rate of said license plates and would negatively impact public safety from a timing and efficiency perspective. Texas A&M University conducted research on the benefit to policing when front license plates are required and found that a front plate allows police to identify vehicles (e.g. suspect and stolen vehicles) from increased angles, both in motion and parked, as well as an increased read rate under varied lighting conditions.

From a parking standpoint, there are several impacts to City operations at the Boise Airport (BOI) and regulated downtown parking. At BOI, removal of the front license plate will impact the ability to automate nightly car inventory at the parking garages. Tracking parking is extremely important to the airport as it is the single largest revenue generator, which is common for most airports across the U.S. Not only could it create and require a more manual process for staff to manage, it could decrease customer service. As an example, in the event of a lost parking ticket, automated license plate readers (LPR), using data from the front license plate, would enable BOI parking services to charge a vehicle based upon when they came into our garage time as opposed to a flat fee for parking or lost ticket. From a passenger perspective, with the increased use of Transportation Network Companies (such as Uber or Lyft) to transport passengers from the airport, the lack of a front license plate would make it increasingly more difficult for individuals to identify their assigned ride, decreasing efficiency of this growing transportation market.

Additionally, Parking Services at the City purchased two vehicles outfitted with LPR technology to better manage on-street parking. These vehicles are used daily by parking compliance officers to electronically "chalk" vehicles parked in time-limited parking areas, as well as manage virtual parking permits, known as "E-Permits". In the past, parking compliance officers would use physical chalk to mark tires of all vehicles parked in a time zone, then return to see if the chalked cars had vacated the block. The LPR technology does all of this work in a fraction of the time, and also provides time

stamped photos of both passes of the vehicle in case these are needed as confirmation later. Removing the front license plate then complicates the efficiencies the City has worked to enact to ensure a more streamlined parking system.

For these reasons, we encourage your "no" vote on SB 1307 and respectfully ask that you hold this bill in the committee. If you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to reach me at kgriesmyer@cityofboise.org or at 208-890-3800. Thank you.

